



Goodhue County Workforce Investment Program



Introductions

This proposal is a partnership between Minnesota State College Southeast, Workforce Development, Inc., and Goodhue County.

- Josiah Litant, MSC Southeast
- Chad Dull, MSC Southeast
- Kyle Mullen, WDI, Inc.
- County Board and staff



Project Overview

- This program will provide zero-cost educational opportunities to Goodhue County residents who are unemployed or underemployed as a result of the pandemic or recession, or who were unemployed when the pandemic began and remain out of work.
- The program will focus on students earning credentials in key fields identified by Goodhue County as priority areas of need within county government.
- The project aligns with the county mission to effectively promote the safety, health, and well-being of residents.



Project Evolution

- President Danielson brought idea to Scott in January
- Josiah and Chad met with Scott and his leadership team in February to gather input on the rough proposal
- Kyle and WDI were looped in as partners in fleshing out the proposal in March
- Met with Scott and several managers in April to gather further input and feedback
- Submitted a full written proposal in May



What is the scope of the project?

The program will recruit 10 students, beginning in fall 2022, in key fields identified as priority needs within county government:

- Registered Nurse (1 student)
- Administrative Support (1 student)
- Information Technology (2 students)
- Civil engineer technologist (2 students)*
- Accounting or Business Management (2 students)
- Criminal Justice (2 students)



What is the scope of the project?

- Participants must live in Goodhue County and must meet the definition of unemployed or underemployed
- WDI will provide wrap-around supports to participants in this program, such as career planning, transportation assistance, childcare stipends, and connecting to other community support programs.
- Goodhue County is seeking individuals for this program who could be employed by the county upon graduation from MSC Southeast.
- As a part of the program, participants will also be offered a paid summer internship with the county between their first and second year.



How are students selected?

- Because no tax deduction will be requested for the expense by the County, Goodhue County may select participants for the program directly.
- WDI and MSC Southeast will support the recruitment, marketing, and qualifying of applicants for the program, and can participate on the selection committee if desired.
- Candidates must meet basic criteria to be viable candidates for county employment (e.g., cannot have certain criminal histories, etc.).



How are students selected? (cont.)

- Goodhue County is an equal opportunity, affirmative action, and veteran-friendly employer. Goodhue County recognizes that a diverse workforce is essential and strongly encourages qualified women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and veterans to apply.



What does “zero cost” mean for students?

- No student will pay out of pocket for tuition, fees, or materials. There are no loans in this program!
- Students will be required to complete the FAFSA.
- Financial aid will be applied to each student’s bill, and then the balance is paid by the County each semester.
- Based on our research, we anticipate financial aid will cover *at least* 70% of student expenses.
- Because many of the participants are low-income, many may have all expenses covered by financial aid.



Logistics and details

- The project would begin this fall and end by August 2025.
- Students could attend full-time or part-time, but must complete their credential in three years.
- We anticipate the total cost to be no more than \$40,000.
- To be eligible, participants must be a resident of Goodhue County, graduated from high school prior to 1/1/20, and be unemployed or underemployed (per WDI definitions).
- Participants must remain a Goodhue County resident throughout.
- Participants must meet institutional academic progress standards (maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA), minimally.



Discussion

- Questions
- Comments
- Feedback
- Next Steps

THANK YOU!

