



To: Ling Becker, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions  
 From: Peg Thomas, Sundance Foundation  
 Date: August 10, 2023  
 Re: Sundance Accelerating Prosperity Pathways Gift

The collaboration between the Sundance Foundation and Workforce Solutions has made such an indelible impact on youth employment in Ramsey County. We are so grateful for this partnership. As we sunset our foundation, we are confident in groundwork we have laid together in the areas of:

- invested in Earn and Learn.
- leveraged your convening influence demonstrating the power of partnerships.
- supported critical pivots during the pandemic.
- impacted systems change with partners including employers and government entities.

In these areas, the Foundation has invested in the power of young people, and has changed mindsets of youth, practitioners, employers and government agencies. We have seen Ramsey County change policies, practices and invested in governmental interventions, differently, to better support young people.

As the Foundation closes, we see Ramsey County as an obvious partner for us to give a last investment, through an “Accelerating Prosperity Pathways” gift. The pandemic was a very difficult time, and through it all, the county’s work evolved as needed. Through Accelerating Prosperity Pathways gift of \$50,000 to Ramsey County, we look forward to you building upon the many efforts and initiatives of the Sundance Foundation and help them to continue to take deeper roots and evolve into the work of Ramsey County Youth Works! for 18–30-year-olds. We ask you to prioritize items below:

Support for Earn and Learn programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of programs.</li> <li>• Filling gaps for organizational successes.</li> </ul>
Building alignments and intentionality to ensure practitioners working with young people have continued access to programs and connections to employers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host resource sessions.</li> <li>• Coordinate practitioner learning and connections.</li> </ul>
Build additional networks of employer partners who value the Earn and Learn model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host employer connections events to support Youth Works! and Earn and Learn opportunities.</li> </ul>
Leverage the foundation tools that have been developed by the Sundance Foundation to amplify best practices for youth employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the Retrospective Tool in evaluating Earn and Learn programming.</li> <li>• Leverage Zoomerkammers and its learning for building opportunities for connections to program and resources to explore careers, post-secondary training and discover their own meaningful futures.</li> </ul>