

Minneapolis Youth Council Meeting
January 14, 2015
Brian Coyle Center

What Are the Issues Around Youth Employment in Cedar Riverside?

- Adults need jobs too. Young people, ages 21 up, have aged out of quality programs putting them at risk.
- Youth lack skills and resources.
- Youth entrepreneur opportunities like the Brian Coyle coffee shop and Sisterhood of the Traveling Scarf are working.
- No experienced employment and training provider is teaching employment skills for young adults.
- Kagoog helps youth with job applications, etc. but is not a comprehensive employment program.
- Transportation and language barriers are issues.
- There is a need for organizations that focus on employment in Cedar Riverside.
- There are restrictions as to who can qualify for programs.
- There is a 75% unemployment rate for 18-24 year olds.
- People don't have brushed-up resumes.
- How can we find employment for students?
- Youth unemployment can be addressed with a strong connection between the City and the community.
- Offer trainings in the neighborhood. Help with resumes.
- Do mock interviews in Cedar Riverside.
- Train youth how to promote themselves in interviews.
- Don't stop the conversation here.
- The City should visit the neighborhood more.
- Inform organizations how to become an employment and training provider.
- There is a level of hopelessness among our youth.
- City job fairs don't turn out too many times. People apply and don't get hired.
- Somali organizations aren't supported. No Somali organization is funded by the City.
- Help support Somali organizations.
- Emerging Workforce organization is working with Summit Academy who provides scholarships for youth but more is needed.
- Desperate for money, young people are selling drugs.
- \$300M spent on Riverside Plaza and the elevators still don't work.
- Don't help us; give us a share of the pie.
- Treat us as partners.
- Help emerging Somali organizations build capacity.
- Chronic unemployment.
- There are assets here who want to be part of the solution.
- One can find unhappiness with the City in any neighborhood.
- Tap into people in the neighborhood who have been successful.
- Word-of-mouth is a way to get people involved with people who are already doing the work.
- Applying on-line is a big challenge.
- Misalignment of resources.
- Data issues. How to collect data. DEED?

- An educated Somali will not get a job.
- The problem isn't here. It's the larger structure.
- Need space for kids to go to study, etc.

Solutions

- STEP-UP should provide cultural sensitivity training for its employers.
- STEP-UP mock interviews should tap into Somali professionals.
- STEP-UP jobs in the community.
- A center in the neighborhood where people can go for jobs, counseling and interpreters.
- There is a lot of energy to harness here.
- Educate employers to the talent here.
- The City must be ambassadors and ask employers to commit to hire.
- Chamber of Commerce has recognized the issue.
- The Humphrey students did a report last year that identifies solutions.
- Put ideas and solutions on the table and work together.
- Need supportive services to help people go to school and vocational training so they can support their families. Transportation is one.
- Fairview could take all their STEP-UP students from Cedar Riverside. Then invest in them with follow-through, make sure that they are connected. Cohort group.
- Grants for volunteer time.
- Make sure youth know what documents are required when applying for jobs.
- Organizations in Cedar Riverside can host STEP-UP interns.
- Staff at the Coyle Center help kids apply to STEP-UP, Team Teamworks and Streetworks, but more help is needed.
- Job Corps (ages 16-24) provides academic completion, soft skills, and trade training and certification. 75% graduate and 90% become employed.
- Provide expungement info and resources for youth. Volunteer Lawyers.
- Urban Scholars is a city summer internship program for college students that could recruit more Somali youth who could be seen as ambassadors and provide connections to others in the community after graduating from college.
- Provide internship opportunities throughout the year. STEP-UP Achieve had 115 in the 2013/14 school year.
- Unsubsidized/private sector jobs are needed. Have a job group work on that.
- Help youth obtain employment documents.
- Provide information to the community about what industries are hiring. Match people with jobs.
- Assess skills of young people.
- City, MPHA, MPRB need to hire Somalis to reflect the community.
- City should prepare those in Cedar Riverside to transition into city jobs.
- Emphasize the importance of networking to youth. Somali kids don't have connected parents, etc.
- City of Minneapolis Job Bulletin is a resource community members can register for to obtain employment opportunities.
- Get the message out to the businesses about the upcoming Teen Job Fair
- Encourage entrepreneurship
- Attend Somali Independence Day Festival (TBA) to learn more about the community.

- Attend the Minneapolis Workforce Council Meeting Jan. 26, African Development Center, 8-9:30 a.m.