

Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways

A Vision for Minnesota

Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways is an innovative strategy that integrates basic skills education, career-specific training and support services to meet the needs of working adults. Each local Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways program consists of a series of connected educational and training activities that allow low-skill students to advance to successively higher levels of education and employment in a given sector, from basic skills education to a postsecondary credential.

Minnesota FastTRAC's collaborative approach is improving the way workforce development partners do business.

A collaboration among a wide array of public, nonprofit and business stakeholders, the Minnesota FastTRAC initiative is beginning to change the way Minnesota approaches talent development for adults. Moreover, the FastTRAC approach is significantly more successful than traditional approaches. Studies show that students in programs like Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways are 29 to 35 percent more likely to earn a postsecondary credential.^[1]

The current FastTRAC partners include:

- The Joyce Foundation
- Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system
- Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Minnesota Department of Education – Adult Basic Education (ABE)
- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
- Minnesota Department of Human Services
- Greater Twin Cities United Way
- Minnesota Office of Higher Education
- Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
- The Governor's Workforce Development Council
- Local employers, workforce development agencies, human services and community-based organizations

Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways programs meet the needs of employers and local economies.

Local programs target industries important to local and regional economies. By addressing local skills gaps, Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways programs work as effective supply chains for employers in need of skilled labor. This ensures that students have good job prospects once they finish their program.

During Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways 2009-2011:

- Thirty-four Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways programs became operational on 20 college campuses representing the following sectors: health care 56 percent, manufacturing 17 percent, education 12 percent, business 9 percent, energy 3 percent, culinary 3 percent.
- Twenty-six (making up approximately 90 percent of Minnesota's ABE service delivery) of 51 ABE consortia have created bridge and integrated programming with Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways funding.

Early Outcomes

Eighty-eight percent of the participants in the Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways program **have successfully completed their initial course.**

^[1] Jenkins, D. et al. (2009). Building Bridges to Postsecondary Training for Low-Skill Adults: Outcomes of Washington State's I-BEST Program. Community College Research Center, Teacher's College, Columbia University. Available at www.eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED505705.pdf.