



Neighbors, Inc. awarded Department of Employment and Economic Development grant to significantly expand training and careers in high demand industries.

South St. Paul, MN. – March 14th 2025 - Neighbors, Inc. was one of 28 organizations to be awarded the [Transformative Career Pathways](#) grant through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Neighbors, Inc.'s Financial Empowerment Center will engage community members through integrated employment and financial coaching coupled with industry-recognized credentials earned at community colleges targeting family-sustaining wages in a variety of high demand fields including Manufacturing, Trades, Healthcare and Information Technology.

“The Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce was thrilled to support, and to hear, that Neighbors, Inc. was the recipient of the Transformative Career Pathways grant. As the voice of business and as a community connector, this helps support our mission, too.” said Jon Althoff, President and Chief Mission Officer for the Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce. “We need more solid employees trained in high demand industries supporting the local and regional economy, cultivating an effective workforce that can meet the needs of businesses both now and in the future.”

In the midst of unprecedented demand for services, in 2022, Neighbors launched the Financial Empowerment Center to support families in achieving their long-term financial goals and to ensure that all families have the opportunity for prosperity. Neighbors, Inc. is determined to disrupt poverty, with the goal of improving the economic well-being of individuals and families for generations to come.

Dawn Wambeke, Executive Director of Neighbors, Inc. shared, “Neighbor’s is deeply grateful for the opportunity to significantly expand our education and career services in high demand industries through the Transformative Career Pathways grant from DEED. Our approach embodies a social capital lens. In partnering with businesses, community colleges, local nonprofits and government, while leveraging the tremendous strength of our 325+ volunteers, our goal is to connect our neighbors to family-sustaining careers, while supporting the economic development of our community.”

About Neighbors, Inc.

Once home to some of the largest stockyards in the nation, South St. Paul has long been a hub of working-class industry and immigrant newcomers. In 1972, Neighbors, Inc. was founded by six local churches and volunteers to provide basic needs for thousands of workers left jobless as the stockyards began to decline due to changing market forces and the decentralization of the meatpacking industry. With a mission of “*neighbors helping neighbors build stability to increase opportunity and well-being,*” Neighbors’ 15 staff, 15 board members, and 325+ volunteers currently steward the organization’s core programs of Hunger Relief, Financial Empowerment, and Community Supports to provide dignified safety net services for 6,000+ households annually. To learn more about Neighbors, Inc. and how to access the [Financial Empowerment Center](#) visit neighborsmn.org.