

**Virtual Community Conversation
CARES Funding & Future Priorities
Employment Supports**

April 20, 2021

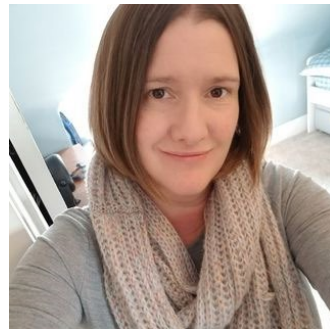
Moderator and County Staff



Elijah Norris-Holliday
Ramsey County Community Member
Moderator



Ling Becker
Director Ramsey
County Workforce
Solutions



Michelle Belitz
Planning Manager



Larry Timmerman
Evaluation Analyst



Mee Cheng
Racial and Health
Equity Administrator

Disclaimer

- This session is being recorded.
- We cannot get into specifics about client cases or discuss private and confidential information about residents we serve on this call.

Ground Rules/Group Agreements

- Be open-minded.
- Listen actively/respectfully when others are speaking.
- Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing ("I" instead of "they," "we," and "you").
- Respectfully ask challenging questions and refrain from personal attacks.
- Be engaged and provide feedback.
- The goal is not to always agree -- it is to gain a deeper understanding.
- Be aware of your facial expressions --they can be perceived as disrespectful as words.
- Do not dominate the discussion, allow others to be heard.
- "Step Up and Step Back!"



Agenda

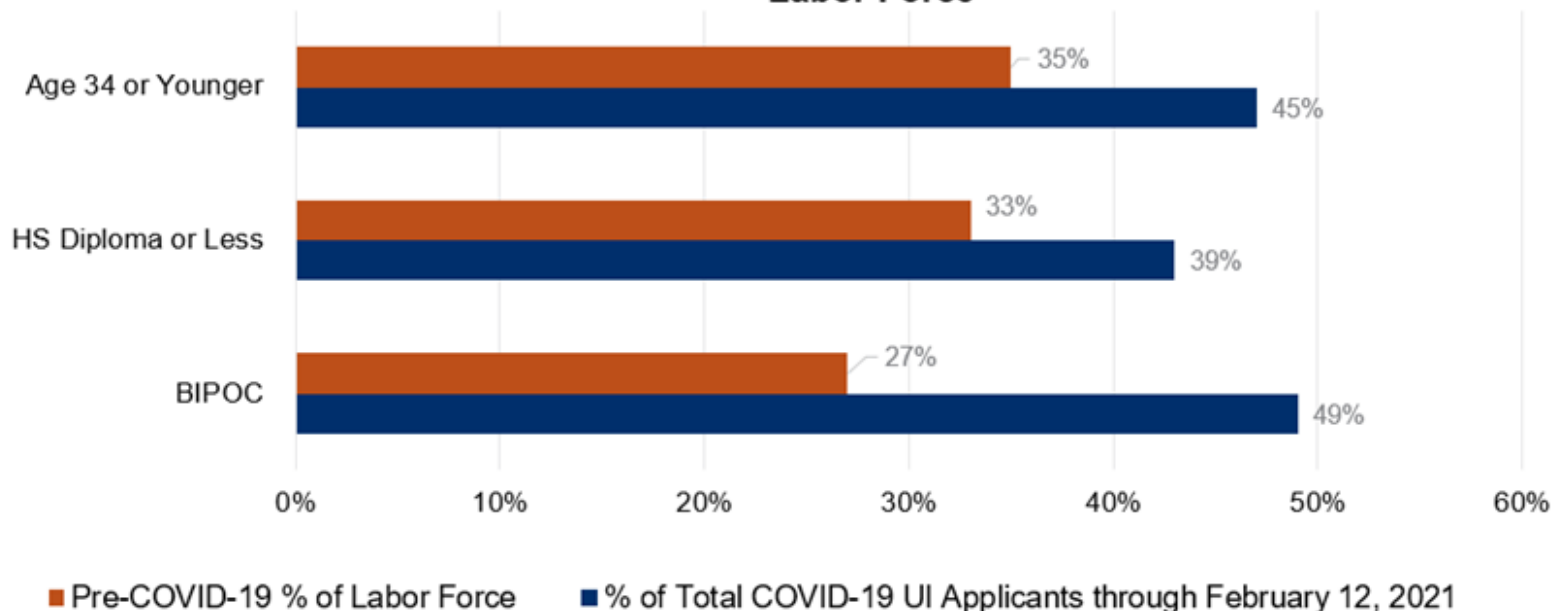
1. Welcome
2. CARES Funding: Ling Becker
3. CARES Evaluation Summary: Larry Timmerman
4. Conversations with our future
5. Closing

County CARES Funded Services: \$96M

- Food and Basic Needs
- Emergency Assistance/Emergency General Assistance
- Landlord Assistance Program
- Homelessness and Housing Assistance
- **Workforce Development (\$11.5M)**
- Small Business Relief
- Service Delivery Redesign
- Race Equity and Community Engagement Response Team: Masks for Everyone, Trusted Messengers, and Media Messaging
- Early Childhood Initiative

COVID-19 Has Disproportionate Employment Impacts on Ramsey County Residents

UI Applications as a Percentage of the Total Pre-COVID-19 Ramsey County Labor Force



- BIPOC = Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, represented as all applicants reporting as something other than Non-Hispanic White
- Labor Force = People who are willing and able to work, including all working and unemployed residents
- 121,819 unemployment applications filed in Ramsey County from March 16 through February 12, 2021
- Percentages on each metric have remained mostly stable since the Summer of 2020

CARES Funding

**2300 Youth
& Young
Adults
served**

Career Labs

Community
Contracts

**Student
Support Kits**

Youth/Young Adults

Community CARES

Virtualization

Community Inclusion
Innovation Fund

Workforce
CARES Funding

**Future
Today**

TechPaks

Resiliency
Fund

Tech4Future Paks

Youth and Young Adult Community Contracts

African American Leadership
Forum

City Academy

Cookie Cart

Genesys Works

High School for Recording Arts

JL Griffis

Keystone

Roots for the Home Team

Saint Paul Urban Tennis

Sanneh Foundation

SPARK Y

Tree Trust

Urban Boatbuilders

Urban Roots

Afro American Development
Association

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Center for Hmong Art and Talent

Change, Inc

CLUES

Construction Career Pathways

Goodwill Easter Seals

Isuroon

JK Movement

Junior Achievement of the Upper
Midwest

New Vision Foundation

Oromo Community of Minnesota

Street Therapy

The Anika Foundation

Catalyst Music

Confederation of Somali
Communities

Face 2 Face

Fortune Relief and Youth
Empowerment Organization

Generation 2 Generation

Hack the Gap

HIRED

Project Restore MN

Right Track

Saint Paul College

Saint Paul Police Department

The Man Up Club

YMCA



What's inside a TechPak?



LAPTOP

Refurbished laptop with power cord, pre-loaded bookmarks for job search and training, carrying bag with luggage tag, and TechDiscounts' computer support for 1 year



TECHNOLOGY

Hotspot Internet access and headset



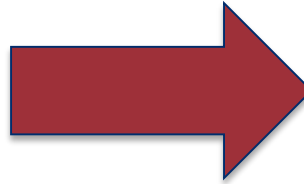
TRAINING

Digital Navigator support on basic computer skills training, assessments, one-on-one tutoring, and referrals to structured classes on computer and internet skills as well as job training, further education, and social services. Materials related to COVID-19, libraries, adult basic education, and QuickStart guides in 5 languages were included.



CARES Workforce Development Goals

- Ensure **access**, in person and virtual, for residents to connect with employment resources.
- Work toward **closing some of the tech gap** for residents who lack technology and digital literacy.
- **Invest in community-based organizations** including supporting the pivoting of more training opportunities online with a focus on **Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)** organizations.
- Provide **gap services for youth/young adults** in partnership with community stakeholders



Workforce CARES Evaluation Questions

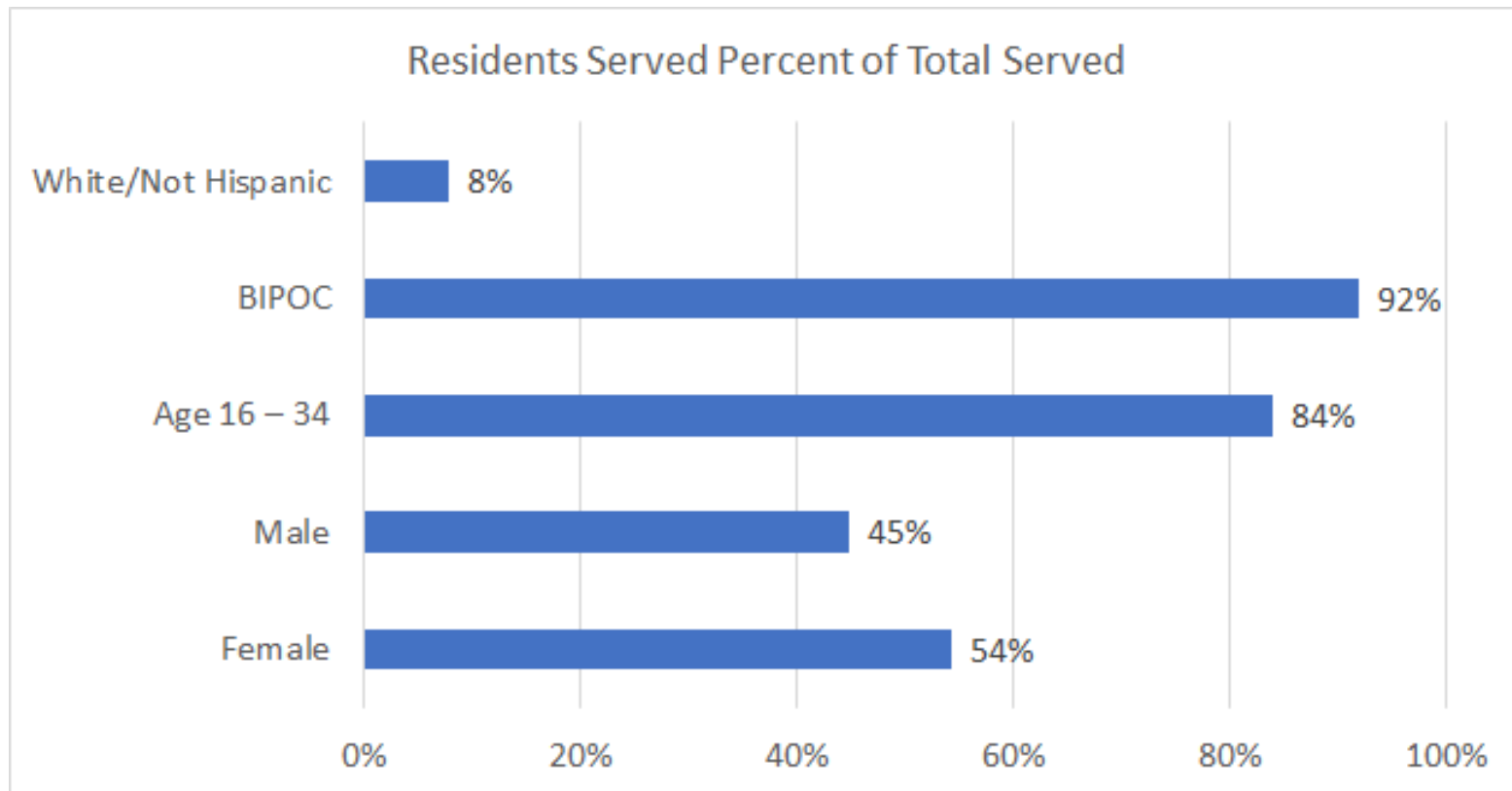
- Are Ramsey County residents better off as a result of CARES Workforce Development programming?
- Did the project achieve the outcomes the community was seeking?
- How can Ramsey County better attract, retain, and support community partners with county contracts?

CARES Evaluation

Engagement and Outcomes

- About 8000 Ramsey County residents served with CARES
 - More than 5300 residents engaged in community-based services.
 - More than 2000 residents received TechPaks.
 - More than 13,000 services delivered.
- Phone and web-based services accommodated more than 4500 inquiries
- In-person Community Career Labs took reservations to serve nearly 1300 additional residents.
- 20% found a job while receiving services

CARES Residents Served Key Demographics



Survey Highlights from Residents

- Residents first learned of CARES service from the County Website (28%), Friend/Family (26%), County Staff (18%), Community Organization (17%)
- From 1- 100, overall satisfaction was 84.
- 47% scoring the services the top score of 100.
- More than 80% of TechPaks were used to look for a job and/or to do a job.

Workforce Development

Short-term Recommendations

- Opportunities for collaboration and networking.
- Convene community partners in a pre-program launch.
- Develop cohorts that include technical assistance.
- Simplify the reporting and monitoring requirements.
- Develop and deliver more holistic, family-focused approaches to providing assistance.
- Focus more resources on improving Tech Equity.
- Video/digital community engagement
- Housing stability

Employment success:

How have you or your program participants been supported in your job/career roles or searches?

Employment challenges:

What are some current challenges with gaining meaningful employment?

Employment resources:

What are some concerns you or your program participants have about the current workforce opportunities in Ramsey County?

Employment outlook:

How should Ramsey County be proactive in delivering employment supports and services?

Stay Connected:

Complete Short Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B36P8YC>

Thank you for your input!



RAMSEY COUNTY

*A county of excellence working with
you to enhance our quality of life.*

Ling Becker

Director of Workforce Solutions

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