

# MINNESOTA STATE FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND 2027 REQUEST

Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities, Southern and Central MN request \$1 million for SFY 2026 and 2027 to support 2,000+ youth ages 12-21 each year.

It is critical that we remain at the same funding level for programmatic success and long-term youth impact. As we continue to address the challenges of COVID-19, learning loss and racial inequities, this request will support thousands of teens and ensure Minnesota's young people are ready to succeed in tomorrow's workforce.

## SERVICES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Strong mentoring relationships and professional match support from our staff that helps young people find their path to success.
- Post-secondary training and college access such as tours, application and FAFSA support, and retention support.
- Career exploration through interest assessments, job shadows, and career nights with employer partners.
- Partnerships across the state with high schools, colleges, universities and employers that offer mentoring, leadership skills, workforce readiness, STEM, and post-secondary access for teens.

## WHY INVEST IN BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

- Mentored youth experience a 15-20% boost in lifetime earnings, reflecting enhanced economic mobility.
- They are 20% more likely to attend college compared to non-mentored peers.
- Finally, every dollar invested in BBBS mentoring pays for itself within just seven years, creating sustained economic benefits.

(2024 Longitudinal Study by Harvard University and the U.S. Department of Treasury)

## ABOUT BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS MINNESOTA

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Twin Cities</b>        | Pat Sukhum, CEO   <a href="mailto:psukhum@bigstwincities.org">psukhum@bigstwincities.org</a><br>Area: Minneapolis & Saint Paul Metro<br>Counties: Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, Anoka |
| <b>Southern Minnesota</b> | Michelle Redman, Executive Director   <a href="mailto:michelle@bbbssmn.org">michelle@bbbssmn.org</a><br>Counties: Dodge, Olmstead, Rice, Steele, Waseca                                       |
| <b>Central Minnesota</b>  | Jackie Johnson, Executive Director   <a href="mailto:jackie@bigdefenders.org">jackie@bigdefenders.org</a><br>Area: St. Cloud Metro<br>Counties: Benton, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, Wright  |

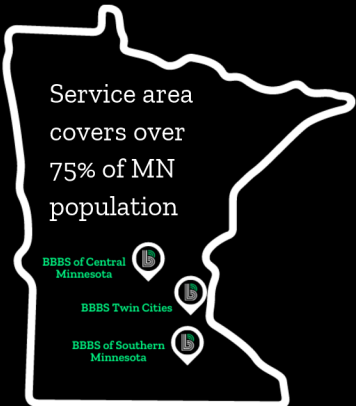


## YOUTH OUTCOMES

- 15-20% increase in lifetime earnings
- 98% of seniors graduated HS
- 94% have strong future educational expectations
- 90% developed strong social emotional skills
- 89% rated their program experience highly



"As I finish my first year of college, I look back on how Big Brothers Big Sisters and my lifelong relationship with Chris helped me see what was possible for my future. Once I could see that and dream that, I am happy to say I'm going to achieve it."  
*Little Brother Ka'Jon (right) and Big Brother Chris (left)*



# STATE OF MINNESOTA SFY 2024 and 2025 UPDATE

**Thank you for your investment in Minnesota's young people!**

Big Brothers Big Sisters is an evidence-based mentoring program that expands positive youth outcomes such as educational success, improved social emotional skills, and stronger relationships.

The SFY 2024 and 2025 appropriation provided \$950,000 to Minnesota's three Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies for our collective focus on workforce readiness for youth ages 12 to 21. The State of Minnesota has provided support for 10+ years.

## WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMMING

Career and future readiness at Big Brothers Big Sisters offers opportunities to build skills and social capital, explore careers, visit college campuses, and succeed after high school. We support 4,500 youth each year, with nearly half engaged in workforce readiness.

### SFY 24-25 Highlights

- Connected with teens, mentors and families, sharing college, career and community resources to support ongoing success.
- Worked with companies and universities across the state on mentoring, career exploration, and STEM (Best Buy, Cargill, Carlson, Federated Insurance, General Mills, Home Town Credit Union, Securian, SRF Consulting, St. Thomas University, U of MN).
- Launched the Big Futures Fund Cohort in the Twin Cities, incentivizing learning and engagement with scholarship dollars for post-secondary education, training, and career needs.
- Partnered with AVID to offer hybrid mentoring and career/future readiness in Southern MN.
- Expanded opportunities for junior high and high school students through the Bigs on Campus program at St. Cloud State, College of St. Benedict, St. John's University, and St. Cloud Technical & Community College.
- Leveraged \$321,000 supporting 85 post-secondary scholarships in 2023 and 2024 with funds from Federated, Deloitte, and others.



## AGENCY DEMOGRAPHICS

### TWIN CITIES: 2,200 youth

83% Low-income  
54% Female | 45% Male  
1% Trans or Non-binary

2% American Indian  
2% Asian/Pacific Islander  
54% Black/African-American  
14% Latinx  
12% Multiracial  
13% White

### SOUTHERN - 1,430 youth

60% Low-income  
57% Female | 42% Male  
1% Trans or nonbinary

5% Black/African-American  
16% Latinx  
14% Multi-racial / other  
65% White

### CENTRAL - 879 youth

63% Low-income  
51% Female | 48% Male  
1% Trans or non-binary

2% American Indian  
2% Asian/Pacific Islander  
16% Black/African-American  
1% Latinx  
16% Multi-racial  
63% White

