



2019 Funding Priorities

Lifeworks has served our community and people with disabilities as we live and work together since 1965. Through Fiscal Support, Employment, and Day Services - as well as through partnerships with nearly 400 businesses - Lifeworks provides support to 2,700 individuals with disabilities and their families throughout the Twin Cities and Mankato area.

We pride ourselves on our strong commitment to community-based programs, supporting the people we serve to both work and participate fully in their communities through life-long learning, civic engagement, volunteering, and enjoying all the opportunities available where they live.

In 2019, our goal is to raise \$1,135,000* to bridge the growing gap between government funding and the cost to provide high-quality, innovative services. By the end of next year that gap will be more than \$2,000,000.

We believe every individual deserves to use their talents and skills to make a positive impact, and the communities where we all live and work need it. With your investment, we can make it happen.

*Remaining amount of funding not included in the 2019 priorities is raised for the Lifeworks Annual Celebration.



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Employment **01.** \$550,000 Goal

All people who want to work, can work. Every day, we serve hundreds of people with disabilities at every phase of their career journey. For nearly 35 years, Lifeworks has connected people and businesses to create a more diverse, vibrant, and inclusive workforce.

Your investment helps us hire qualified staff that can dedicate time to focusing on the people we serve. Our low staff to program participant ratio allows us to provide high-quality, consistent, and thorough support. Through our person-centered approach, Lifeworks learns a person's interests, strengths, and needs – then helps that person investigate careers, gain exposure to different work, and land the job that they want.

This level of individualized support comes at a cost – \$13.00 a day more per person than our government reimbursement. The additional cost is well worth the investment. Our method has led to higher achievements and greater outcomes. In 2018, Lifeworks coordinated nearly 200 new job placements; 85% of people with employment as a goal found jobs and are earning as much as \$23 per hour.



Day Services – Music, Art, Volunteering, & More **02.** \$195,000 Goal



With programs in Apple Valley, Brooklyn Park, Eagan, and Mankato, we encourage individuals to explore their interests and accomplish their goals through hands-on learning – all while receiving the highest quality of care alongside their neighbors.

Your investment in Day Services ensures that we have qualified staff and that our facilities, accessibility equipment, and service spaces provide opportunities for growth. From music therapists and artists to multi-sensory environments, technology labs, body support systems, and custom devices – we are able to enrich lives by providing consistent, individualized learning opportunities guided by top-notch professionals.

Transportation **03.** \$120,000 Goal

Transportation funding from the government only pays for people to get from point A to point B, but at Lifeworks we want people included in their communities throughout their day.

Our focus on community involvement and engagement means Lifeworks funds transportation to and from volunteer opportunities, band practices and performances, museums, shopping centers, and other community locations, benefiting both the community and the people we serve. This funding will help us to reach areas that have limited options for transportation, giving those who live in more rural areas in the state access to community resources.



Technology **04.** \$100,000 Goal



To provide people with disabilities and their families with the best services possible, the technology and infrastructure that support our organization must be strong, efficient, and adaptable.

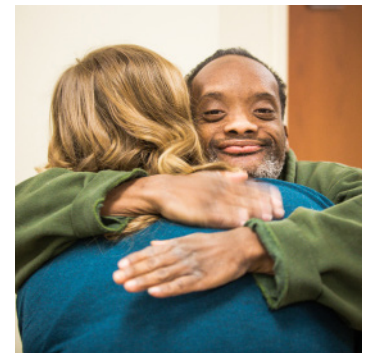
By investing in a web-based time and expense system, staff can optimize the time they spend on direct service. Real-time mobile phone and iPad access replace four expensive and inefficient applications reliant on paper timekeeping. In 2018, we piloted the software with our core staff, and in 2019 we plan to launch the solution to over 4,000 employees in our Fiscal Support Service.

This new system will not only allow Lifeworks to keep up with government regulations and changes to time keeping and billing, but it will also allow us to scale our services and serve more Minnesotans with disabilities. Additionally, we use the technology as part of our programming to support individuals in developing skills to master the systems they will encounter in their daily lives.

Innovation – Resource Navigation **05.** ~~\$95,000 Goal~~

Lifeworks is launching culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach and resource navigation efforts to connect underserved communities to disability services. Initial efforts are focused on the Somali community, and through a partnership with Dakota Family and Children’s Clinic, we will meet people where they are, both physically in safe and comfortable places and intellectually through cultural and linguistic competence, advancing health equity and access in the process.

As we progress, Lifeworks hopes to bring this method of outreach to all Minnesotans who have difficulty navigating the resources available to individuals with disabilities. This initiative not only helps people access resources, but also works to change a system that often seems too complex or inhibitive for anyone outside of the human services industry.



Workforce Shortage **06.** ~~\$30,000 Goal~~



Historically low unemployment coupled with government reimbursement rates that do not allow providers to pay competitively in comparison to other sectors have created a workforce crisis in disability services.

To ensure continued service quality and access for individuals, Lifeworks is creatively partnering to recruit individuals to serve one to two year fellowships. Using models like Teach for America and AmeriCorps, learners of all ages interested in the social services arena gain valuable experience while creating and delivering services. This fall, Lifeworks hopes to add two to three fellows at a cost of \$10,000 each focused on evolving programs that help people explore their interests, build skills, and navigate resources.