

About Pillsbury United Communities

We are a community-based, venture orientated non-profit agency that traces its roots to Minneapolis' Bethel Settlement, one of 400 settlement houses established between 1889 and 1910 across the nation to improve living conditions in city slums.

Our purpose is to help people out of poverty through developing strong relationships with individuals and their families. The foundation of our work originates with engaging and merging multiple constituencies: neighborhood residents, sister agencies, government bureaucracies, funding sources and anyone else who is interested in the health and viability of our communities.

We are organized into four distinct and integrated units or strategies to holistically address the complex and multi-faceted needs of the 30,000 people we serve annually: Neighborhood & Family Services; Community Employment & Economic Development; Community Building Initiatives; and Arts & Culture, which includes Pillsbury House Theatre.

Currently, we operate out of five neighborhood centers, a center for employment & economic development, and numerous satellite sites throughout north and south Minneapolis.

The mission of Pillsbury United Communities is creating choice, change and connection.

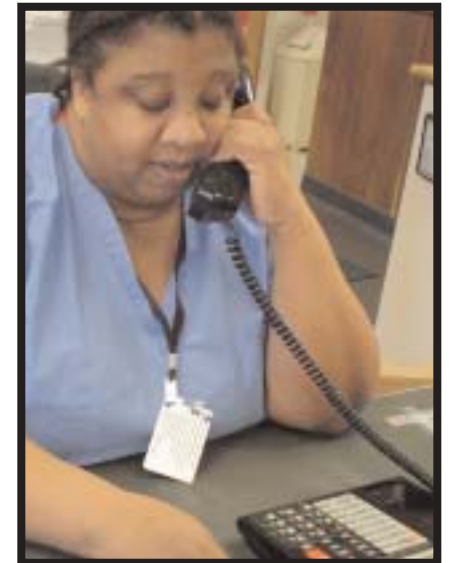
Pillsbury United Communities
EPIC Program
3650 Fremont Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55412



EPIC PROGRAM

Employing Partners in Community

A day-training and habilitation program for people with developmental disabilities



3650 Fremont Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55412
Tel: 612-529-8054 Fax: 612-529-8069
www.puc-mn.org

What we do:

Employing Partners in Community (EPIC) provides day training and habilitation services for persons who have developmental disabilities. EPIC offers vocational and non-vocational services, with an emphasis on community integration.

Who we serve:

EPIC is licensed to serve 50 adults with developmental disabilities who are diagnosed with mental retardation, from mild to severe. Some have additional problems such as autism, mental health problems, hearing or vision loss, or mobility impairment. Participants have ranged in age from 21 to 78.

Why it works:

The EPIC program is unique in that programs are individualized according to each participant's goals. Activities are designed to increase self-preservation, self-expression, creativity and coping skills. We offer a warm and friendly environment where participants are encouraged to grow and develop their full potential.

EPIC is dedicated to helping people with developmental disabilities to become more independent, increase their productivity, improve their self-determination and move them toward greater integration and inclusion in our community.

Vocational Services

EPIC staff work with participants to explore vocational opportunities. Participants in the EPIC program may choose to work either part-time or full-time. Participants work in one of three basic settings:

- Community-based, vocational enclaves, with staff ratios between 1:6 and 1:8;
- Independent placement, with the support of EPIC staff;
- Center-based employment, for those whose community skills need development.

Vocational opportunities at EPIC include light cleaning, food preparation and dishwashing, among others.

Skill Building Classes

Skill Building Classes are an integral part of EPIC's program and are offered each afternoon. Participants choose classes in areas such as:

- Performing
- Recreation
- Current Events
- Community Activities
- Arts Woodworking
- Ceramics
- Music
- Dance

Senior Program

EPIC offers a senior program for participants 65 and older who choose not to work. A community-integrated retirement program is provided at a neighborhood church, which allows seniors to socialize with their non-disabled peers.

Rehabilitation Services

EPIC contracts with Innovative Rehabilitation for on-site physical, occupational and speech therapy services as well as group counseling.

Facts to Know

Special Needs & Accommodations: EPIC is a wheel-chair accessible, smoke-free environment.

Transportation: Transportation is provided through a combination of EPIC-owned vans, contracted providers, and Metro Mobility. Transportation is limited to the Metro Mobility Service Area.

Staff: EPIC provides a staff ratio of between 1:6 and 1:8, depending on individual needs and abilities. All staff are trained in first aid, CPR and other topics as necessary. EPIC contracts with a nurse who monitors medication administration.

Facility: EPIC is located within Camden Neighborhood Center at 3650 Fremont Avenue north in Minneapolis. The building is one-level, barrier-free, accessible to wheel chairs and on the bus line. Center hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Placement Procedure: Referrals are made by Hennepin County Case Managers and are reviewed by the EPIC Management Team. Vocational placements are determined through assessments and IDT recommendations.

Funding Sources: Medical Assistance, Waivered Services, county of responsibility and others.

To arrange for an informational meeting and tour of our site, or to make a referral, please contact Avis Kruger at 612/529-8054.