



DYLAN WALTER



GOODWILL EASTER SEALS - IT SERVICES | ST. PAUL, MN

DUAL TRAINEE SUCCESS

MN DUAL TRAINING
GRANT PROGRAM

INFORMATION SECURITY
ANALYST / SPECIALIST

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Minnesota Dual Training Grant awards up to \$150,000 in grants to employers utilizing dual-training models. The grant reimburses employers for costs associated with related instruction resulting in industry-recognized degrees, certificates, or credentials. The dual-training model pairs on-the-job training with formal related instruction to foster skilled employees and enhance company culture.

Dual trainees may benefit from up to \$6,000 a year from the Dual Training Grant. Dual trainees can participate in dual-training programs for up to four years through the grant.

- ✓ Pursued career advancement in IT and cybersecurity
- ✓ Utilized Dual Training Grant to help build talent on IT team
- ✓ Earned Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) from New Horizons

Dylan Walter, 35, of Minneapolis is thankful for the career advancement and opportunities that the Dual Training Grant has provided him. Dylan has been working as an IT Infrastructure Engineer in the Goodwill Easter Seals - IT Services department since 2017, helping to build their secure and stable IT environment from the ground up. After years of serving as an integral part of the IT team, Dylan had career goals he wanted to meet: Becoming an entrepreneur and starting his own strategic IT consulting business.

With the help of the Dual Training Grant, Dylan was able to earn his Certified Information Security Systems Professional (CISSP) from New Horizons, a high in-demand certificate for IT professionals and one of the most valuable cybersecurity certifications available.

Dylan said Goodwill often encourages professional development opportunities, but there are seldom technology-focused programs or programs that are directly applicable to improving and building talent within the IT team. After his director learned about the Dual Training Grant, many Goodwill IT team members have since pursued a variety of IT certifications with the help of the grant.

“One of the best things about Goodwill is that they are an employment-focused organization,” said Dylan. “These certifications are portable, and it benefits both you and the company to pursue these credentials.”

Dylan started his own business in 2021, and is currently working with Goodwill on a transition and training plan. Dylan added that the financial assistance was instrumental in his decision to earn the CISSP. “The Dual Training Grant covers the whole bootcamp and the exam, which can stack up to thousands of dollars,” he said. “Opportunities to earn free specialized certifications don’t happen very often, and I’m grateful for this grant that opened doors for me.”