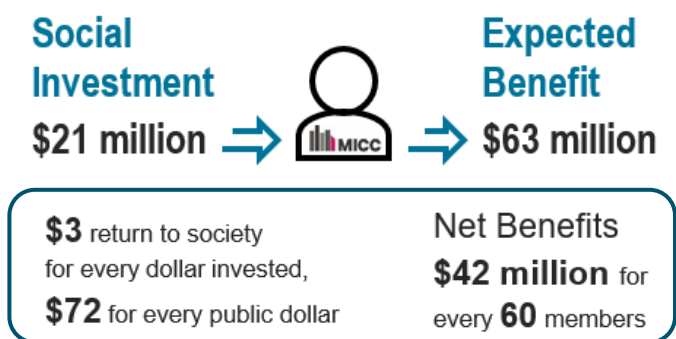


Prospective Social Return on Investment

Wilder Research worked with Minnesota Independence College & Community (MICC) to study and quantify the costs and monetary value of the social benefits generated by its vocational and life skills training program for young adults with autism spectrum disorders and other learning differences. The MICC program helps members achieve long-term daily living independence, rewarding employment, financial security, personal growth, and responsible citizenship. The study examined outcomes measurement data from MICC’s records and compared the estimated economic value of the program with the associated investments from the perspective of the whole society (e.g., individuals, taxpayers, and other private agents such as private donors, family members, or citizens).

Prospective social return on investment (SROI) studies differ from traditional business-related ROI calculations in that they include costs and benefits of outcomes that are not typically associated with a dollar value—for example, the value of years of life gained due to better social engagement and having a sense of independence. These studies are common in the social sciences. In addition to using program data, we rely on peer-reviewed economic articles to determine the costs and benefits of our expected outcomes, using conservative estimates when values varied.



Key findings

- The social return on investment of MICC is \$3.00 for every dollar invested, indicating that the benefits of MICC not only offset the cost of providing services, but return value to society.
- Over a lifetime, society gains \$1 million in benefits for the average MICC participant, but spends only \$343K to deliver independent living support services to that Community program participant. These benefits result from:
 - Increased net earnings as a result of vocational skill development and the skills required to get and keep a job
 - Improved social engagement, economic self-sufficiency, and health outcomes
 - Increased tax revenues
 - Other public savings due to reduced costs of providing comprehensive disability support services
- The social gains from MICC total more than \$63 million for every 60 member cohort of the Community program. A given Community program participant living independently in the Richfield, Minnesota area near the MICC College campus will contribute over \$1 million in lifetime local economic impact (47 years).
- The return on investment for Minnesota taxpayers is even greater at \$72 for every dollar of public funds invested.

continued

Costs and benefits

- The total social costs to deliver MICC's person-centered, independent living curriculum are underwritten in part by everyone in society. For example, taxpayers fund county administered vocational rehabilitation programs, while volunteers and community residents provide time and talent to help ensure MICC's community program success. Since the perspective of the study is societal, all costs were examined no matter who was bearing them.
- Benefits include avoided costs. The study assumes that society would incur myriad health care and social support costs in the absence of MICC program support.
- Costs and benefits in future years are discounted, or deflated, to reflect the present dollar value. Benefits accruing over the 47 years following undergraduate completion are discounted at a rate of 3%.
- Community program participants and their families incur 3 years of undergraduate costs plus the estimated costs of membership for the remainder of their lives. Although participants and their parents or guardians bear the majority of costs, some costs are underwritten by public funds.

1. TOTAL SOCIAL COSTS (2017-2018 60 MEMBER COHORT)

	Costs
Participant costs	
College program	\$1.2 million
Community program	\$381K
Summer program	\$86K
Other costs (e.g. health care coverage, medications, miscellaneous living costs, and volunteer services)	\$1.1 million
Public costs	\$970K
Private costs	\$719K
Total annual costs	\$4.5 million
Present value lifetime costs	\$21 million

2. TOTAL SOCIAL BENEFITS (2017-2018 60 MEMBER COHORT)

	Benefits
Avoided costs of providing personal care assistance services	\$1.4 million
Avoided costs of providing higher care needs support	\$1.6 million
Expected savings from reduced health care costs	\$781K
Expected value of avoided ER visits, hospitalizations, and mental health admissions	\$175K
Earnings from wages and salaries	\$813K
Spending, saving, value of volunteering, and providing peer supports	\$436K
Federal income tax revenue	\$94K
State income tax revenue	\$46K
Total annual benefit	\$5.3 million
Present value total lifetime benefits	\$63 million

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For more information

This summary presents highlights of the *Prospective Social Return on Investment for Minnesota Independence College and Community (MICC)*. For more information about this report, contact Justin Hollis at Wilder Research, 651-280-2696.

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