



## 2026 EXTENDED EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### ***RESTORE & PROTECT***

#### **Workforce Access, Choice and Quality for Minnesotans with Disabilities**

- Restore waived-eligible Minnesotans' access and choice to Extended Employment (EE) services by suspending or overriding EE Rule prohibition.
  - EE Rule denies EE services to DHS waived-eligible Minnesotans.
  - Excluded former EE recipients now try to receive DHS waived employment supports but those benefits are being reduced due to federal and state reductions.
  - 3500 - 4500 Minnesotans used to be served annually by providers. Now it's down to 2500+ (FY25).
  - EE system has capacity to serve more Minnesotans.
  
- Protect current annual EE funding of \$17.325 million (General Fund - \$10.495 million, WDF - \$6.830 million) in DEED budget.
  - Meet underserved/unserved populations and help sustain current caseloads.
  - Respond to ongoing employee workforce shortage and general inflation costs.
  - Address increased costs due to regulations (WIOA, EE Rule).
  - Funding is necessary to support state's ongoing workforce plan goals.
  
  - Consequences Without adequate EE funding:
    - Increased state costs on housing and hospitalization.
    - Rural-based EE providers cannot fully serve rural Minnesotans with disabilities.
    - Residents become more isolated from the community.
    - Waiting lists start up again, certain service categories close for highest-need Minnesotans.

## **FAST FACTS: EE Program is Working!**

- Housed in DEED's Vocational Rehabilitation Service Division.
- Current structure has been in existence since 1998.
- No waste/fraud/abuse – Successful program is “pay for performance” or outcomes-based funding.
- 26 EE Providers around the state provide EE service in most effective, cost efficient manner.
- Minnesotans in EE Program have earned \$40.5 million (FY25), more than \$2 per every state dollar invested.

## **Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation (MOHR)**

MOHR is a nonprofit association of nearly 100 providers across the State of Minnesota, working to advance employment and a wide array of learning and enrichment services for people with disabilities. For more information about the EE Program and MOHR, please contact Shep Harris at [sharris@fredgov.com](mailto:sharris@fredgov.com) and/or 612-219-8531.