



Minnesota Workforce Development Fund An Overview of its History, Utilization and Key Programs

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Workforce Development Fund

- The Workforce Development Fund is a dedicated fund established in 1990 to finance employment and training programs aimed at enhancing the skills of Minnesota's workforce and promoting economic growth.
- The fund was created due to broad support from both labor and business leaders with an original goal to support dislocated workers – a priority that is written in law.
- Over time, legislative transfers from the fund to other workforce priorities have increased, adapting to the changing needs of Minnesota's labor market.

Workforce Development Fund

- The Workforce Development Fund is funded through a special assessment that is levied at the rate of 0.1% per year on all taxable wages.
- The amount of money in the fund fluctuates from year-to-year based on the size of the current labor force.
- The Dislocated Worker program receives its funding after all legislative appropriations have been deducted from the fund.

Workforce Development Fund Structure FY25



Based on the last Workforce Development Fund Summary, there was about \$85,000,000 million in funds available for board authorization

Workforce Development Fund Uses

- Legislative appropriations
- Dislocated Worker (DW) Program and administration
- Minnesota Job Skills Partnership (MJSP) Grants
- Six Percent Projects
- Other Special Projects

Minnesota Dislocated Worker Program

- Designed to help workers get back to work as quickly as possible and overcome barriers to employment, through:
 - Career planning and counseling
 - Job search assistance
 - Training and education opportunities
- Authorized by Sec. 116L.17 MN Statutes

Minnesota Job Skills Partnership Board Authority

- Consider policy for MJSP and DW programs.
- Approves grants for the MJSP Partnership, Pathways, and Low-Income Worker Training programs.
- Approves the DW and MJSP administrative budgets.
- Approves allocations to the Workforce Development Areas and Small Layoff Independent Grantees (SLIG) for small layoff formula funds.
- Approves SLIG performance tier rankings.
- Considers supplemental funding requests to serve small layoffs.
- Considers "6% funding requests."
- May consider the transfer funds from DW program to the MJSP grant programs when conditions outlined in 116L.05 have been met.

Current Minnesota Job Skills Partnership Board Members

- Matt Varilek -Commissioner, MN DEED
- Bernadette Burnham - President of MN AFL-CIO
- Dr. Rebecca Cunningham - President, University of Minnesota
- Dr. Keith Brooks - Sr. Director, Services & Programs, Goodwill Easter Seals Minnesota
- Lance Louis - CEO, Louis Industries
- Deborah Roberts - Sr. Director Human Resources, Polar Semiconductor
- Brad Meier - Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism (Senate Appointee)
- Dr. Scott Olson- Chancellor, Minnesota State
- Scott Parker - International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
- Sarah Northrup - Workforce Program Manager, Center for Energy and Environment
- Jennifer Theisen - Director of Human Resources, DiaSorin
- Erik Skoog - President, Teamsters Local 320 (House Appointee)

Minnesota Job Skills Partnership Program

- **Partnership Program** - Provides grants of up to \$400,000 to educational Institutions that partner with businesses to develop new-job training or retraining for existing employees.
- **Pathways Program** - Provides grants of up to \$400,000 to educational institutions or nonprofit organizations that partner with businesses to provide training, new jobs and career paths for low-income people.
- **Low Income Worker Training Program** - Provides grants of up to \$200,000 to public, private, or nonprofit entities to help low-income people gain new skills necessary move up the career ladder to higher paying jobs and greater economic self-sufficiency.

Thank You!