



State Appropriation for MDI Employment Services

February 24, 2021



MDI Presenters

Eric Black, President

Jeanne Eglinton, Director of Employment Services

Delmon Smith, MDI Employee

Mission

Serve people with disabilities by offering inclusive employment opportunities and services



MDI is Workforce Development.

- MDI's **Social Enterprise** model is unique
- Serving people with disabilities challenged to find employment
- We have an inclusive work environment
- All employees paid at least minimum wage and benefits



Employment Services

Thank you for your past support.

- Employed 562 people, 183 of whom are people with disabilities
- Wages and benefits paid \$17.7 million
- Social return on investment \$4.87 to \$1 per Wilder Research
- Estimated social return on investment of **~\$2.2 million**



State Appropriation is Essential Funding.

- Current State Appropriation \$100k/year
- Created a \$350k deficit in 2021
- Shortfall left three positions unfilled and decreased services for people with disabilities

Workforce Development

Career Skills – Impacting employees

- >200 participants complete classes
- 96% participants said they were positively impacted by the course
- 80% are better at problem-solving
- 88% showed more responsibility for their actions



Employee Testimonial



<https://youtu.be/5B31GIDahgg>

Employee Testimonial

Delmon Smith **Minneapolis, Production Assembler**

“MDI helps me feel empowered because I feel like I am part of a movement. We get to bring our skills to the table and use them accordingly and not be judged for our disabilities. Everyone has something to offer to the company. I get to use my talents on jobs that I am assigned. I feel like I don’t stand out here. I draw strength from the courage that other people exhibit on a daily basis.”





Please Restore Funding to \$450k
State Appropriation is Essential

Questions?