

Letters for HF3889 (Koegel)



March 6, 2026

Dear Committee Chairs Baker and Pinto, and Members of the House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee:

I am writing in strong support for [HF3889](#), the Getting to Work Program. As a previous recipient of this funding, I have seen firsthand how it changes lives. Transportation is vital in rural areas, where public transit may not be regularly available. It means families can get to work, school and other community events.

MVAC combines the Getting to Work Program with the Family Assets for Independence Minnesota (FAIM). We purchase new cars and lease them out to households that would not be able to obtain traditional financing. The program involves:

- Financial education
- Vehicle education, including the selection, purchase, and maintenance of the vehicle
- Participants make a monthly payment to MVAC. A portion of the payment pays down principle, and the remainder is deposited in the clients FAIM Account.
- Once the account reaches \$4000, we make a 3:1 match with FAIM funds and pay down the vehicle principle by \$16,000.
- Once the vehicle is paid off, the household owns it outright

Through FAIM and Getting to Work, we have put over 30 households in brand new cars. With a 97% success rate, only 1 vehicle has been returned for non-payment. After it was returned, we were able to lease it to another eligible household.

As funds are paid back, they are revolved and MVAC purchases additional vehicles and leases them to new households.

This is a program that works and has a significant impact in the lives of participants.

Sincerely,

Amanda Mackie, MBA, MSW, LICSW
MVAC Executive Director



March 6, 2026

Representative Dave Pinto
Co-Chair, Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance & Policy Committee
5th Floor Centennial Office Building

Representative Dave Baker
Co-Chair, Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance & Policy Committee
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building

Re: [House File 3889](#) (Koegel) Getting to work grant program

Chair Pinto, Chair Baker, and Members of the Workforce, Labor, & Economic Development Finance & Policy Committee,

On behalf of the statewide [Minnesota Community Action Partnership](#) network that provides family stabilization services and community support to all 87 Minnesota counties, we express our sincere appreciation for this hearing in your Committee on Representative Koegel's **HF3889 Getting to Work Grant Program**.

Getting to Work is a competitive grant program housed at DEED that connects low-income workers with jobs by funding nonprofit organizations that help workers in their communities overcome transportation barriers.

A reliable vehicle is critical to the success of most working families, which Community Action Agencies throughout Minnesota know very well. Ten Community Action Agencies and other community-based organizations made very impactful use of their Getting to Work Grants in 2024-25, as documented in [DEED's 2025 legislative report](#) (attached). This document includes specific examples of individuals and families whose income increased and whose families benefitted from having reliable transportation.

We strongly support [House File 3889](#) and urge you to move this bill forward for funding consideration this Session.

Thank you for the powerful work you do to support economic opportunity for ALL Minnesotans. We look forward to ways that we can partner with you in this critical work to empower our friends and neighbors in Minnesota!

Sincerely,

Lori Schultz, Executive Director
Minnesota Community Action Partnership

[Type text]



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willmarareachamber.com_ (320) 235-0300
info@willmarareachamber.com

March 1, 2026

Representative Dave Baker
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Dave Pinto
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy

Subject: The "Getting to Work" Program

Dear Co-Chairs Baker and Pinto and Members of the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee.

I am writing on behalf of the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber as a strong supporter of the Getting to Work program delivered by United Community Action Partnership.

The Willmar Lakes Area Chamber represents businesses and organizations across our region and is committed to strengthening the local economy by supporting employers, advancing workforce development, and promoting policies that help our communities thrive. A reliable, engaged workforce is essential to the success of our members and to the economic vitality of greater Minnesota.

The Getting to Work program addresses one of the most persistent barriers to employment in our region, access to dependable transportation. By providing donated vehicles to individuals who otherwise lack reliable transportation, the program enables participants to secure and maintain employment, pursue education and training, and contribute more fully to the local economy. For employers, this translates into improved employee attendance, greater workforce stability, and stronger retention.



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The results of this program clearly demonstrate its impact. More than 100 vehicles have been donated through Getting to Work, and 72 percent of individuals who received a vehicle have moved off public assistance. These outcomes highlight how targeted investments can support long-term self-sufficiency while reducing reliance on public resources. Many local employers have directly benefited from employees who are able to consistently show up to work and remain employed because they have reliable transportation.

The benefits of the Getting to Work program extend well beyond the workplace. Participants are better able to attend their children's school conferences and activities, purchase groceries, and access medical appointments without having to work around limited public transit schedules. These everyday improvements strengthen families, support children's success, and contribute to healthier, more connected communities.

For these reasons, the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber strongly urges your support for funding the Getting to Work program. This program is a proven, practical investment in Minnesota's workforce and economic future. We thank you for your leadership and for your continued work on behalf of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Miller", is written over a light blue circular background.

James Miller

President/CEO, Willmar Lakes Area Chamber



Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel
1.800.WIN.CASH
Local 507.697.8000
Fax 507.697.8024

Dear Co-Chairs Baker and Pinto and Members of the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee,

I am writing on behalf of **Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel** to express our strong support for the *Getting to Work* program delivered by our local Community Action Partnership agency, **United Community Action Partnership, Inc.**

Jackpot Junction is a **regional Casino Hospitality** employing **650** individuals in our community. As an employer in rural Minnesota, reliable transportation is one of the most common barriers we see impacting employees' ability to maintain consistent employment.

The *Getting to Work* program has helped many individuals in our workforce meet their transportation needs. Unexpected car repairs can place a significant strain on family budgets, and when reliable transportation is lost, it can quickly become the difference between keeping or losing a job. In rural Minnesota especially, where public transit options are limited or nonexistent, dependable personal transportation is essential for employees to get to work and remain employed.

Programs like *Getting to Work* not only support workers but also strengthen our broader community. When families have reliable transportation, they are better able to attend their children's school conferences and activities, purchase groceries, attend medical appointments, and remain engaged in their communities without needing to rely on limited transit schedules or others for rides.

For employers like us, this program directly supports workforce stability, employee retention, and economic participation. It helps hardworking individuals overcome short-term financial obstacles so they can continue contributing to their families, their workplaces, and their communities.

We strongly urge your continued support and funding for this important program and thank you for your work on behalf of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grace Goldtooth", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Grace Goldtooth
Director of Human Resources