

May 1, 2023

The Honorable Bobby Joe Champion
President of the Senate
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3401



The Honorable Hodan Hassan
Chair, Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee
State Office Building, Room 597

The Honorable Jay Xiong
Chair, Workforce Development Finance and Policy Committee
State Office Building, Room 557

Re: Getting to Work Grant Program, Senate File 607/House File 1236

Chair Champion, Chair Hassan, Chair Xiong, and Members of the Conference Committee,

On behalf of the 135 organizational members of the Minnesota Asset Building Coalition (MABC), thank you so much for including an appropriation for the Getting to Work Grant Program in your omnibus budget bills. We're grateful to the bill authors, Senator Hawj and Representative Koegel, for championing this legislation and to the committees for recognizing the value of the Getting to Work 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. Between legislative sessions each year, MABC staff visit nonprofit organizations across the state to better understand the challenges facing their communities and hear about the priorities they believe MABC should include in our legislative agenda. Nearly every MABC member raises the issue of transportation barriers and asks that MABC prioritize Getting to Work.

DEED has done a great job of ensuring that Getting to Work grants fund transportation programs all across the state. See the reverse side of this letter for a list of Getting to Work grant recipients.

In 2022, a [Star Tribune article](#) profiled Getting to Work and highlighted the program's statewide impact.

[DEED's legislative report](#) on Getting to Work grants includes specific examples of individuals and families whose income increased and whose families benefitted from having reliable transportation.

Thank you for the good work you do to support economic opportunity for all Minnesotans. We look forward to the Conference Committee and hope to see the Getting to Work appropriation in the Conference Report.

Sincerely,

Anna Odegaard
Director, Minnesota Asset Building Coalition

Getting to Work Grant Recipients:

- Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (Northern St. Louis County)
- Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties
- Hennepin County Community Action Partnership
- Hmong American Partnership (St. Paul and North Minneapolis)
- Minnesota Valley Action Council (Mankato and surrounding counties)
- Resource West (Western Twin Cities Suburbs)
- Tri-CAP (St. Cloud and surrounding communities)
- United Community Action (Rural Southwest and Central Minnesota)