



May 3, 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,

Thank you so much for including an appropriation for the Getting to Work Grant Program in your omnibus budget bills.

My name is Ann Macgregor and I'm the Partnership and Development Coordinator at Minnesota Valley Action Council. MVAC is the Community Action Agency that serves the nine counties in South Central Minnesota. MVAC received a Getting to Work grant in 2022, and I appreciate the opportunity to share the impact that funding has made for our clients.

MVAC developed a program by leveraging the Getting to Work funds with Agency Funds and enrolling all participants in the Family Assets for Independence Program (known as FAIM). The Agency purchased 6 new vehicles to lease out to participants who otherwise would not be eligible for traditional financing.

Participants agree to participate in Financial Wellness and Car Maintenance classes, and to meet with staff monthly to make their payments. During this visit, staff ensure they are completing the necessary vehicle maintenance and check in with them to see if they need any other support or resources. This allows us to help them when an issue arises, but before it becomes a crisis.

One participant, a single dad, works as a contracted employee to deliver for Walmart. The vehicle that he owned was at the point of needing car repairs quite frequently. He would dip into his budget to make the repairs only to have something else go wrong. As a contracted employee, he only gets paid for the deliveries made. If his car was in for repairs, he wouldn't earn money. So, by getting him in this program, he can work every day and not have to spend money on repairs. He has the money to put into his savings and will eventually own his car.

Thank you for the good work you do to support economic opportunity for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Ann Macgregor,

Partnership and Development Coordinator, Minnesota Valley Action Council