

The Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB) supports critical investments in the workforce system which allow for data-driven, effective local solutions to meet workforce needs across the state. Now is the time to invest in Minnesota's strong network of local workforce development boards to bolster their ability to address unprecedented workforce challenges.

Increase Funding for the Minnesota Youth Program (MYP) to Prepare Our Future Workforce.

- ▶ This is the only youth employment program that **serves youth from all 87 counties**. Funds are allocated through a statutory county-based formula centered on need.
- ▶ The program works: MYP has **consistently met or exceeded established performance goals**.¹
- ▶ MYP provides effective career counseling and exposure to high-growth, in-demand occupations for young people between the ages of 14 to 24. MYP also provides paid work experience and related support services to under-represented, low-income youth who were hardest hit by the pandemic and are more likely to face challenges entering the labor market.
- ▶ Minnesota has the fourth lowest career counselor to student ratio in the country. MYP adds counselor capacity to schools.

IMPACT: *At current funding levels, local boards only serve a fraction of eligible young people. Added funding will ensure more young people have the opportunity to explore career options and earn their first paycheck and enter the workforce. For every state dollar invested, MYP yields a return of \$9.29.*²

Funding to Support Business-led Talent Solutions to Meet Workforce Needs and Support an Equitable Economic Recovery.

- ▶ Businesses across the state are hurting for workers. In this tight labor market, employers are looking to modernize and evolve their hiring practices, seeking to be more creative, inclusive, and include a skills-based approach.
- ▶ Funding uses may include business-focused diversity, equity, and inclusion programming, incumbent worker training, on-the-job training funds, talent attraction and retention services, customized consultations, and industry-focused initiatives.

IMPACT:

- ▶ *Local workforce development boards are charged with serving both jobseekers and employers, but do not receive any dedicated funding to serve employers. One-time funding would dramatically increase capacity to do this work across the state at an unprecedented time for employers.*
- ▶ *BIPOC Minnesotans self-report employment discrimination at over twice the rate of white Minnesotans.*³ *Funding for DEI programming for employers would represent the first state-wide initiative to help address this.*

Funding to Provide Modernized Career Services to Adults with Barriers to Employment in Pursuit of an Equitable Economic Recovery.

- ▶ We need everyone in the workforce. Local workforce boards receive zero state formula dollars to serve adults with high barriers to employment. With a workforce shortage and severe economic disparities, dedicated funding is needed to serve this population.
- ▶ Workforce development funding is at historic lows. Adjusted for inflation, funding levels are \$3 billion less today than what our nation collectively invested in the publicly funded workforce system in 2000.
- ▶ Programming would provide a range of services to include case management and career counseling, support services, education and training, connections to community-based resources, job placement and retention services, internships and on-the-job training, translation/interpretive services, digital equity support, and expanded outreach to underserved populations.

IMPACT: *Minnesota's federal adult workforce program consistently exceeds program outcomes, helping people enter and retain employment and increase their earnings. In the last program year, Minnesota's program ranked 11th in the nation.*⁴ *Added one-time funding would build and expand on the current success of this type of programming.*

¹ MYP is authorized under Minnesota Statutes 116L.56 and 116L.561. See performance [data](#).
² https://mn.gov/deed/assets/minnesota-youth-annual-report-2021-acc_tcm1045-514438.pdf
³ <https://indicators.centerforeconomicinclusion.org/executiveSummary>