



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION
OF WORKFORCE BOARDS

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

PRIORITIZE SUPPORT FOR THE DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM



MAWB advocates for prioritizing support for State Dislocated Worker Program funding out of the Workforce Development Fund to ensure consistent service delivery as layoffs increase.

Why?: Layoffs have been increasing over the last year. As a result, we expect to see increased demand for the Dislocated Worker Program. At a time when our state faces challenges of increased layoffs, demographic change, and worker shortages, Minnesotans need this core, foundational workforce program to meet demand, match-make between workers and businesses, and be ready to scale to meet changing dynamics.

Action: MAWB advocates for prioritizing funding from the Workforce Development Fund (WDF) to ensure the core function of State Dislocated Worker Program is met annually.

Over time, the amount of WDF that funds the State Dislocated Worker Program has eroded, with a significant decrease (~50% decrease) in funding in this biennium's budget. Based on appropriations last year, we expect another ~50% decrease in funding for this fiscal year. MAWB advocates for funding to align with historic levels for the State Dislocated Worker Program prior to erosion.

The State DW program is a core workforce system program, providing safety net services to all Minnesotans affected by layoffs. This program serves employers, laid off workers, and the communities they live in from small towns to the Twin Cities. We are Minnesota's proven workforce infrastructure and, through the State DW program, we are ready to support thousands of workers, businesses, and communities in every part of the state.

Every public dollar invested in workforce services returns real results: jobs, wages, and local economic impact. Our system is ready to put those dollars to work!

WHY DOES THE STATE DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM MATTER?

Support for Employers

- Prevent layoffs through upskilling and incumbent worker services
- Support for their employees when the difficult decision to make layoffs needs to be made

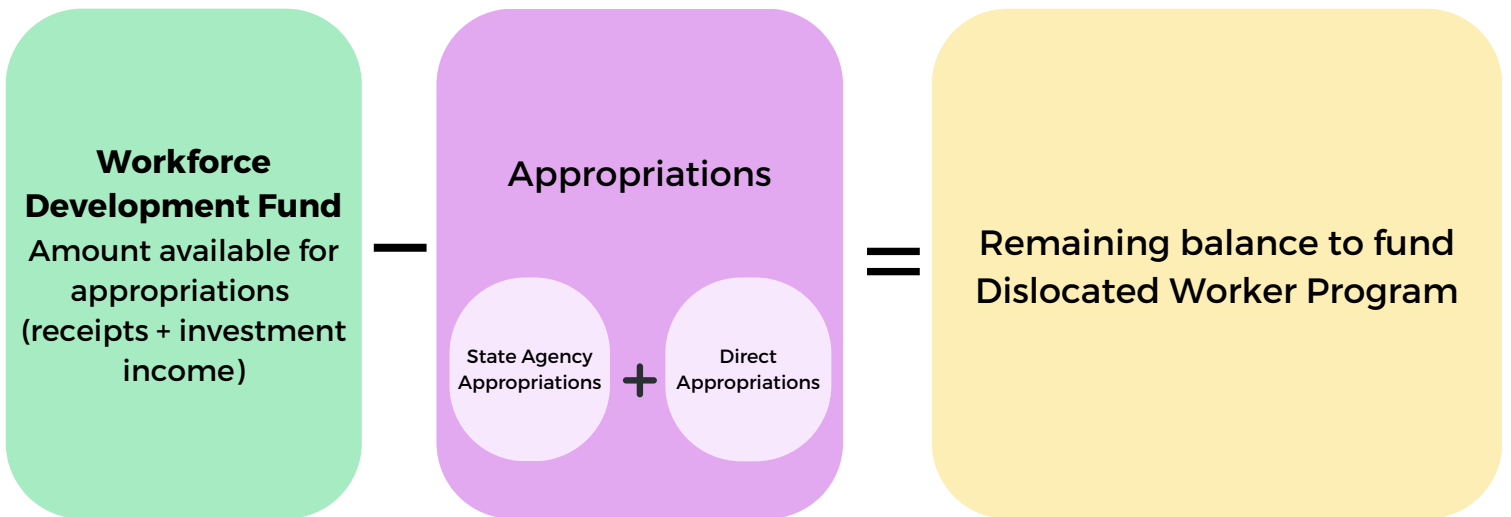
Support for Laid Off Workers

- Career planning, job search, training, and support services for Minnesotans during those difficult days after being laid off
- By working with a workforce coach, participants get data-driven support on making their next career choice based on MN's labor market

Support for Communities

- Stabilizes families
- Decreases need for public assistance
- Keeps local economy stable
- Helps provide reskilling to get more workers to industries with labor shortages

HOW STATE DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM FUNDING LEVELS ARE DETERMINED:



Any unspent funding goes to Workforce Development Fund Reserves
Accessible by MJSP Board to make transfers to meet State Dislocated Worker need based on requests.



Scan for the list of Local Workforce Boards and contact information.

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