Hennepin-Carver
Workforce Development Board

HCWDB Meeting
November 13th, 2026
Carver County, Hennepin County, Title I – IV Program Updates and Director's Report

Carver County Updates:
Contact: Jen Kielas, jkielas@carvercountymn.gov

Carver County continues to make meaningful progress across several workforce development initiatives while experiencing sustained high demand for services at the CareerForce Center.

- **Budget Updates**
  - All Notices of Funding Availability (NFAs) have been signed and submitted. We are currently awaiting final execution and release of funding.
- **CareerForce Center Operations**
  - As previously communicated, effective October 19, 2026, public operating hours at the CareerForce Center changed from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, to 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. This adjustment was made to better align staffing resources with operational needs while minimizing the need for additional FTE requests.
  - The CareerForce Center continues to experience increasing demand, with customers presenting more complex needs requiring enhanced support and service coordination.
- **Programs and Initiatives**
  - The Workforce team partnered with the Medical Assistance (MA) team to present on the upcoming work and community engagement requirements that will take effect January 1, 2027. The presentation was delivered at a Project Lin-kij meeting. Project Lin-kij, led by local nonprofit A Better Society, is a community initiative focused on building collaborative partnerships that connect residents to essential services, promote civic engagement, and facilitate resource sharing throughout Carver County.
  - The team recently completed the transition from OnBase to CaseWorks as its primary data management system. This significant implementation effort is expected to streamline workflows, improve efficiency, and enhance service delivery.
  - In addition, staff remain focused on reducing and ultimately eliminating the Dislocated Worker Program waitlist to ensure eligible customers can access services in a timely manner.
- **Upcoming Hiring Events**
  - November 16, 2026: Hiring event featuring Presbyterian Homes, Entegris, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.
  - November 30, 2026: Hiring event with Chaska School District 112.

Carver County continues to strengthen workforce development efforts through operational improvements, strategic partnerships, system enhancements, and employer engagement activities. Demand for services remains strong, underscoring the ongoing need for workforce support and community collaboration.

Hennepin County Updates
Contact: Nola Slagter-Johnson; Nola.Slagter-Johnson@hennepin.us

- No written updates.

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Youth Program Updates:

Contact: Bri Zaiss, Brianna.Zaiss@hennepin.us

- WIOA Young Adult (WIOA Youth)
  - PY25 Monitoring has been completed for all subgrantees.
  - PY26 WIOA Youth grant funds have been received and allocated to subgrantees.
- Minnesota Youth Program (MYP)
  - The SFY26 MYP Annual Report is currently being drafted. Once available, the report will be shared with the HCWDB
  - SFY26 Monitoring is nearly complete for all subgrantees.
- Hennepin GO November Expo
  - **Date: Thursday, November 19, 2026**
  - **Time: 10:15 AM - 2:00 PM**
  - **Location: 625 Building located at 625 4th Ave South, Minneapolis 55415**
  - Hennepin County Workforce Development's Growth & Opportunity (GO) program is excited to announce a career exploration event for youth. Hennepin GO serves as the county's primary programmatic strategy to provide residents with internships and employment pathways which plan a crucial role in reducing disparities in employment, education, and income.
  - At a GO Expo, students hear from engaging guest speakers and rotate through career exploration stations. A career exploration station is a hands-on, student-friendly space where young people learn about different Hennepin County departments through interactive activities and resources.

Adult and Dislocated Worker Program Updates

Contact: Nicki Hanson, Nicolette.hanson@hennepin.us

PY26 WIOA Adult, WIOA DW, and State DW Grants (7/1/26-6/30/28)

- We have received our full PY26 State DW & 1st PY26 WIOA Adult & WIOA DW allotments from DEED. Subgrantees have, or will, receive their grant packages soon.
- We are waiting to receive our 2nd allotments for PY26 WIOA Adult & WIOA DW grants from DEED

PY25 WIOA Adult, WIOA DW, and State DW Grants (7/1/25-6/30/27).

- Subgrantees requested modifications to all three PY25 grants.
  - PY25 State DW modification has been approved by DEED. Subgrantees that requested modifications have, or will, receive their modified grant packages soon.
  - PY25 WIOA Adult and PY25 WIOA DW modification requests are with DEED for review and approval.

Grant Progress

- PY26 Quarter 1 and PY26 Quarter 5 Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) were submitted to DEED timely.
- We continue to assess subgrantee spending and performance regularly.
- Referrals are flowing through AirTable. Referral numbers are based on subrecipient work plans and subgrantee capacity. Enrollments are being analyzed regularly to determine if the flow is managing enrollment numbers accordingly.

Strategic Planning

- Hennepin County program staff are working on business process mapping and strategic planning with support from Internal Services and Strategic Planning staff

Local Negotiated Performance Outcomes for PY26 and PY27 Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs

We have received Hennepin-Carver's Negotiated Performance Outcomes for PY26 and PY27 WIOA Adult, WIOA DW, and State DW Programs.

WIOA ADULT PROGRAM		
Performance Measure	**PY26**	**PY27**
2nd Quarter Employment Rate	70.9%	70.9%
4th Quarter Employment Rate	68.5%	68.5%
2nd Quarter Median Earnings	$9,000	$9,500
Credential Attainment	73.6%	73.6%
Measurable Skill Gains	69.0%	70.0%

WIOA AND STATE DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAMS		
Performance Measure	**PY26**	**PY27**
2nd Quarter Employment Rate	75.0%	76.0%
4th Quarter Employment Rate	73.4%	73.4%
2nd Quarter Median Earnings	$17,000	$17,500
Credential Attainment	81.0%	82.0%
Measurable Skill Gains	80.0%	81.0%

These performance goals were negotiated in accordance with TEGL 11-19 Change 2. Below you will find the cohort timeframes included in these negotiated rates.

Served count (goal not negotiated)

- PY26 program served date cohort: 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
- PY27 program served date cohort: 07/01/2027 – 06/30/2028

Employment Rate – Second Quarter After Exit Quarter (Negotiated Goal)

- PY26 program exit date cohort: 07/01/2025 – 06/30/2026
- PY27 program exit date cohort: 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027

Employment Rate – 4th Quarter Employment (Negotiated Goal)

- PY26 program exit date cohort: 01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025
- PY27 program exit date cohort: 01/01/2026 – 12/31/2026

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Median Earnings (Negotiated Goal)

- PY26 program exit cohort who have at least $1 of earnings reporting during the second quarter following program exit date: 07/01/2025 – 06/30/2026
- PY27 program exit cohort who have at least $1 of earnings reporting during the second quarter following program exit date: 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027

Credential Attainment (Negotiated Goal)

- PY26 program exit date cohort for those who attended credentialed type training during their enrollment period: 01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025
- PY27 program exit date cohort for those who attended credentialed type training during their enrollment period: 01/01/2026 – 12/31/2026

Measurable Skill Gains

- PY26 cohort for those who attended training during the program year: 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027

Title II Adult Basic Education Program Updates

Contact: Emily Watts, wattse@district279.org

- No written updates.

Title III Wagner-Peyser Program Updates

Contact: Liz Jennings; Liz.Jennings@state.mn.us

DEED Job Service Activity, September 16 - October 30, 2026

Overview

- New Employment Counselors from Hired, Avivo, and Goodwill Easter Seals who will be providing client drop-in services on Fridays in rotation at CareerForce Brooklyn Center, received Hennepin County badges and attended a tour and training in the Northwest Family Human Services facility.
- Held on Monday, October 19, Hennepin County building staff led the hour-long training, going over all procedures. The three agencies continue to rotate through the Fridays and support each other when one agency is not able to fill the position. This work is part of the requirement for Dislocated Worker to be on site in a comprehensive center.

Brooklyn Center - September 16 - October 30, 2026

- 139 people Registered as new customers on CareerForce.mn.gov
- 12 people Uploaded New Resumes
- 9 people attended Creative Job Search Over 50, an in-person workshop
- 5 people attended Job Club / Networking, an in-person workshop
- 34 people received Career Services Appointments
- From 9/28-10/30/2026, 86 people checked in as Walk-ins using Q-flow data. (More came in as one-to-one appointments).

Bloomington - September 16 - October 30, 2026

- 177 people Registered as new customers on CareerForce.mn.gov
- 20 people Uploaded New Resumes
- 23 people attended Creative Job Search: LinkedIn, an in-person workshop (3 were Vets)
- 31 attended Job Club / Networking, an in-person workshop (4 were Vets)

- 21 people received Career Services Appointments

Bloomington Career Lab Visits 9/16-10/30/2026

- 105 total visits: 21 first time visits, 84 repeat visits
- Customer Age at time of visit:
  - Age 19-21: 2
  - Age 22-39: 9
  - Age 40-54: 30
  - Age 55+: 31
  - N/A: 33

Title IV Vocational Rehabilitation Program Updates

Contact: Sarah Gutzman, sarah.gutzman@state.mn.us

- No written updates.

HCWDB Director's Report

Contact: Erik Aamoth, erik.aamoth@hennepin.us

- **Legislative Update**
  The Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB) legislative priorities for the upcoming session under the new administration and newly constituted House and Senate include:
  - Securing consistent funding for the State Dislocated Worker Program.
  - Clarifying eligibility requirements for the State Dislocated Worker Program to improve access and administration.
  - Maintaining full funding for the Minnesota Youth Program (MYP).
  - The full MAWB legislative platform is expected to be approved at the MAWB membership meeting on November 18.
- **Regional and Local Plans**
  - The WIOA Regional Workforce Development Plan is scheduled for final approval by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners next week. Following approval, the completed plan will be submitted to the State by the end of November.
- **Board Membership Update**
  - Amanda and Christa will be concluding their service on the Workforce Development Board at the end of the year. We extend our sincere appreciation for their contributions and commitment to workforce development efforts.
  - Beginning next year, the Board will have two private-sector vacancies. The application period starts on November 12. Board members are encouraged to share this opportunity within their professional networks and direct interested candidates to staff for additional information about the application process.

Workforce Task Force

Nicole represents the Board as a participant in the Workforce Development Task Force, which has been charged with examining opportunities for workforce development system reform.

The Task Force's work includes:

- Reviewing existing workforce development programs in Minnesota, including those funded by federal and state resources.
- Evaluating the current workforce development funding structure.
- Identifying and assessing potential performance measures and outcome metrics.
- Developing recommendations related to workforce development practices, programs, funding, and state statutes.
- Proposing draft legislation to implement recommended changes.

Workforce Center Performance Metrics

The Governor's Workforce Development Board has convened a working group to develop recommendations for a legislative report on performance metrics for Minnesota's Workforce Centers. This effort is intended to strengthen accountability and improve measurement of workforce system outcomes.

Skills Accelerator Workshop

Planning is underway for a Skills Accelerator Workshop to be held in January at the Bloomington CareerForce Center. Board members are encouraged to attend and to promote the event among employer partners and professional networks. Additional details and registration information will be shared as they become available.