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Workforce Resources for Employers

Workforce Grants: What's available and Where to Apply

A wide variety of workforce grants/funding streams are available for northland employers to assist in the hiring and training process. Grants are also available for earn-as-you-learn dual training (Pipeline), apprenticeships (MAI) and other certifications. In some cases, the application process can be as simple as a two-page form.

Here are the major workforce grants/funding streams and training programs to be aware of within our region:

Employer Services – Core services offered to employers through the CareerForce Duluth location:

- Post jobs on Minnesotaworks.net
- Host hiring events at the Duluth CareerForce location
- Present at Job Club
- Participate in Job Fairs

Contact: Employer Navigator Rhonda Rutford, Rhonda.rutford@state.mn.us or 218-302-8406

DEED Training Grant Programs – The Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership (MJSP) targets short-term training for long-term employment and offsets training-related expenses. Grants include the Partnership Programs which provides up to \$400,000 to educational institutions that partner with businesses to develop job training or retraining for existing employees. The Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) provides up to \$200,000 to new or expanding businesses in Greater Minnesota.

More information: <https://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/training-grant/>

Contact: Danielle Kressin, deed.mjsp@state.mn.us or 651-259-7509

Duluth Workforce Development On-the-Job-Training Program – Up to 50% reimbursement of the wage rate of an employee through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to offset training costs.

More information: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/workforce-development>

Contact: Employment Technician Betsy Hill, bhill@duluthmn.gov or 218-730-5228

Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training (NEMOJT) Talent Development Program (TDP) –

Reimbursement for training up to \$25,000. This open grant provides financial assistance to train exiting employees or improve economic competitiveness of regional businesses.

More information: <http://www.nemojt.org/Services/Employers/Talentdevelopmentprogram>

Contact: Workforce Coordinator Heath Boe, heath.boe@nemojt.org or 218-735-6174

Minnesota Apprenticeship Initiative (MAI) Registered Apprenticeship – Funded through a \$5 million grant through the U.S. Department of Labor, MAI provides employers up to \$5,000 per employee to cover costs associated with developing apprenticeship programs in five industries: Advanced Manufacturing, Agriculture, Health Care Services, Information Technology and Transportation.

More information: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/mai>

Contact: Project Manager LaRohn Latimer, larohn.latimer@state.mn.us or 651-284-5223



Minnesota PIPELINE Program – Provides up to \$6,000 per employee (\$150,000 per employer) to develop earn-as-you-learn, dual training opportunities and programs. The new application opens April 1, 2019 with over \$3 million available statewide.

More information: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/pipeline>

Contact: Program Manager Annie Welch at annie.welch@state.mn.us or 651-284-5353

SciTechsperience – Provides employers with a 50% match on an intern's wages up to \$2,500 for students in STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

More information: <https://scitechmn.org>

Contact: Director Becky Siekmeier at scitechmn@mnta.org or 952-230-4241

The Department of Labor and Industry's Youth Skills Training Program – Supports the development and implementation of experiential learning opportunities for students 16 and older. These locally developed programs are implemented in cooperation with employers and schools. Includes both classroom instruction and paid part-time employment.

More information: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/yst>

Contact: Project Manager Rich Wessels at rich.wessels@state.mn.us or 651-284-5184

Federal Bonding Program – A no-cost employee fidelity insurance that protects employers against employee theft of money or property. This can cover new or current employees who may be denied coverage by commercial bond carriers for reasons such as a history of arrest, conviction or imprisonment, poor credit, and more.

More information: <https://mn.gov/deed/business/finding-workers/incentives/federal-bonding.jsp>

Contact: Minnesota Federal Bonding Coordinator at 651-259-7521

Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) - WOTC is a federal tax credit available to all private-sector businesses as an incentive to employers to hire workers in certain groups who consistently experience high rates of unemployment.

More information: <https://mn.gov/deed/business/finding-workers/incentives/wotc.jsp>

Contact: deed.wotc@state.mn.us or 888-234-5521

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