



Getting to Work Bill

SF 607 (Hawj) HF 1236 (Koegel)

Bill Summary

The Getting to Work bill appropriates base funding for the Getting to Work Grant Program at DEED to expand successful nonprofit vehicle programs and launch new programs in areas of the state where they are needed.

What is the Getting to Work Program?

The Getting to Work Program provides grants to nonprofits connecting workers to jobs by offering:

- Low-interest vehicle loans or leases
- Free or sliding-scale vehicle repairs
- Donated vehicles

To qualify for a grant, organizations must offer financial literacy education, credit counseling, car maintenance and repair instruction, or job training to help people achieve long-term financial stability. To qualify for assistance with a vehicle, individuals must be below 200% FPL and have a valid driver's license and insurance.

Impact

A reliable vehicle is critical to the success of most working families. Programs that received Getting to Work grants in 2017-2018 reported that:

- 35% of Getting to Work clients used the vehicle to obtain a new job
- 68% of Getting to Work clients used the vehicle to prevent loss of a job

History

The legislature created the Getting to Work Grant Program in 2017 with a one-time appropriation of \$200,000. DEED awarded grants to six vehicle programs around the state, and altogether those programs helped 412 families with the transportation they needed to find or keep a job. The legislature made another one-time appropriation for grants in 2021, and the DEED report on these grants is forthcoming.

Past recipients of Getting to Work Grants:

Arrowhead Opportunity Center (Northern St. Louis County)
Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties
Hennepin County Community Action Partnership
Hmong American Partnership (St. Paul and North Minneapolis)
Minnesota Valley Action Council (Mankato and surrounding counties)
Resource West (Western Twin Cities Suburbs)
Tri-CAP (St. Cloud and surrounding communities)
United Community Action (Rural Southwest and Central Minnesota)

