



Generation Hope: Expanding Workforce Development for Individuals in Recovery

Overview.

Generation Hope is a Minneapolis-based Recovery Community Organization (RCO) dedicated to helping individuals in recovery secure stable employment through workforce development, peer support, and advocacy. We focus on breaking employment barriers for individuals impacted by substance use disorder, ensuring they have the skills and opportunities needed to rebuild their lives.

Why SF2351 Matters:

SF2351 will expand workforce development services by:

1. Addressing Workforce Shortages – Many industries face labor shortages, and this program will help connect qualified workers with high-demand jobs.
2. Supporting Long-Term Recovery – Stable employment significantly reduces relapse rates and dependency on public assistance.
3. Removing Employment Barriers – Many individuals in recovery face criminal records, gaps in employment history, and limited professional networks—this bill provides targeted solutions.

Key Provisions of SF2351

- Allocates \$1 million (FY 2026) from the Workforce Fund to the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for a grant to Generation Hope, a leader in workforce development.
- Connects individuals in recovery with job training programs in high-demand industries such as healthcare, construction, and technology.
- Provides record expungement assistance, helping remove legal barriers to employment.
- Offers personalized career coaching, including mentorship, resume building, interview preparation, and job placement.
- Builds strong employer partnerships to ensure sustainable career pathways.

The Impact of Workforce Development at Generation Hope

Since launching our workforce development initiatives, we have:

1. Helped over 70% of program participants secure stable employment.
2. Created pathways for individuals in recovery to enter the workforce—many now working in fields where they can support others in similar journeys. Some of which who have been hired by Generation Hope.
3. Bridged employment gaps for individuals facing barriers by providing skill-building opportunities, professional coaching, and direct job connections.
4. Engaged employers and industry leaders to create inclusive hiring practices that welcome individuals in recovery.

How SF2351 Supports Minnesotans

- **Strengthens Minnesota's Workforce** – Increases workforce participation by preparing more individuals for employment.
- **Reduces Public Costs** – Decreases reliance on social services and reduces recidivism rates.
- **Boosts Economic Growth** – Ensures more people contribute to the local economy through workforce engagement.

Call to Action

We urge lawmakers and community leaders to support SF2351 to expand workforce development for individuals in recovery. Your support will help break employment barriers and create a stronger, more inclusive workforce in Minnesota.

For More Information, Contact::

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