

FACT SHEET | 21st Century Economic Development

2015 Budget for a Better Minnesota

During the last four years, Governor Dayton and the Legislature made economic development and workforce training a major priority – investing \$1.5 billion in economic development initiatives to support job creation and grow our economy. These efforts are projected to create an estimated 126,760 jobs, and leverage \$8.5 billion in additional private investment in the state’s economy. This year, the Governor’s proposed budget would build on these initiatives by investing in broadband internet and job training initiatives, which will help Minnesotans successfully compete in the global marketplace.

Expanding Access to Broadband

- **New Broadband Investments.** Last year, Governor Dayton and the Legislature invested \$20 million in a new Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program to help communities across Greater Minnesota gain access to high-quality broadband. This year, the Governor is proposing an additional \$30 million to help further expand access.
- **Broadband Critical to Jobs.** High-speed broadband enhances educational outcomes, workforce training opportunities, and private sector innovation. As a result, broadband infrastructure is crucial for our future prosperity and for Minnesota businesses competing in a global economy.
- **Broadband Essential to Rural Development.** Now more than ever, rural development will be closely tied to the effective use of new and emerging information technologies. Communities with a poorly developed information technology infrastructure will be unable to generate new business expansions and retain existing businesses and residents.
- **Internet Essential to Education.** In much of Greater Minnesota, internet service is expensive and marred by slow speeds and frequent outages. This makes it difficult for students to gain access to online resources and for schools to use new innovative tools and teaching methods.

Broadband Internet Access – By the Numbers

\$30 Million	Governor Dayton’s proposed investment in broadband internet
450,000	Estimated number of Minnesota households that lack access to broadband internet at state speed goals
36 percent	Households in Greater Minnesota that lack high-speed broadband internet access

Training Minnesotans for Great Careers

- **Pathways to Prosperity.** Governor Dayton’s budget would establish a new “Pathways to Prosperity” program to provide adults with barriers to employment integrated developmental education and skills-based training and credentials. By offering streamlined services that focus on meaningful career pathways, the new program will help people get and keep jobs that pay high enough wages to support families. The Governor is proposing to reallocate resources in order to invest an additional \$2.5 million in the Pathways to Prosperity program, which will merge the current FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways initiative and the Adult Workforce Development Competitive Grant Program.
 - **Minnesota’s Economy.** Due to a looming labor shortage, Minnesota’s greatest economic challenge in the coming decade will be to ensure that all adults are prepared to be a part of our workforce. The new Pathways to Prosperity program will grow our economy by giving

thousands of Minnesotans with barriers to employment the skills they need to get good-paying jobs with opportunities for advancement.

- o **Minnesota's Employers.** The Pathways to Prosperity program will solve industry needs by training individuals for Minnesota's in-demand jobs and identifying the quickest path to hiring individuals into these hard to fill positions.
- **Preparing our current workers for the jobs of tomorrow.** Governor Dayton's budget proposal would allow the State Dislocated Worker Program to serve people who are currently employed, but who would benefit from additional training. This program currently only serves people who are unemployed. This reform would help ensure our workforce development system is able to meet employer needs during periods of economic growth.