



Economic Development, Employment, and Labor Acronyms and Nicknames

October 2021

This publication lists common acronyms and nicknames used in the fields of economic development and employment. The terms are listed alphabetically, with definitions, statutory citations or other references, and brief descriptions.

| Acronym | Definition | Citation/Reference | Description |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 21 st Century Fund | Minnesota 21 st Century Fund | State: § 116J.423 | Separate account in state treasury, appropriations to DEED. Operated as a revolving account available for minerals processing, manufacturing, and other economic diversification projects in northeast Minnesota. |
| ALJ | Administrative Law Judge | State: Chapter 14 | All hearings of state agencies required under chapter 14 must be conducted by an administrative law judge. ALJs operate under the Office of Administrative Hearings and are subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct. |
| Angel Investor Credit | Small Business Investment Tax Credit | State: § 116J.8737 | Tax credit for investment in qualified Minnesota businesses. |
| APA | Minnesota's Administrative Procedures Act | State: Chapter 14 | Provides state entities with administrative processes and procedures, including rulemaking. Distinct from the federal APA. |
| ASME | American Society of Mechanical Engineers | State: Chapter 326B | National professional entity of mechanical engineers whose standards are cross-referenced in state standards for engineers, boilers and boiler operators, and others |
| ASSE | American Society of Sanitary Engineering | State: Chapter 326B | National professional entity whose standards are referenced in state construction and licensing standards |
| AWAIR | A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction Program | State: § 182.653 | Written program employers must establish to promote safe and healthy working conditions |
| BDO | Business Development Office | State: Chapter 116J | DEED office providing business assistance and coordinating resources to encourage business expansion |

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| BDPI | Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure Program | State: § 116J.431 | Grant program to local governments to make infrastructure improvements that promote economic development in rural Minnesota. Requires local matching funds and targets fields like manufacturing and technology. |
| BMS | Bureau of Mediation Services | State: § 179.02 | State mediators that assist with the settlement of labor disputes |
| CCLD | Construction Codes and Licensing Division | www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/our-areas-service/construction-codes-and-licensing | Unit in DOLI that oversees occupational licensing, fees, building codes, etc. |
| CDCs | Community Development Corporations | State: § 116J.982 | Nonprofit corporations certified by commissioner of DEED whose primary purpose is economic development, redevelopment, or housing within a designated community |
| CDFI | Community Development Financial Institution | Federal: Public Law 103-325 | Private financial institutions certified by the U.S. Treasury to provide services to disadvantaged individuals and communities |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations | | Federal rules and regulations |
| CILS | Centers for Independent Living Services | State: § 268A.01 , subd. 8 | Private nonprofit organizations that provide independent living services to persons with disabilities |
| DEED | Department of Employment and Economic Development | State: Chapter 116J | State agency with oversight and administrative responsibility for: economic development; employment and training programs and services; unemployment insurance; vocational rehabilitation; labor market information, analysis, and forecasting; business services; public infrastructure development initiatives; marketing and trade promotion; etc. |
| DOLI | Department of Labor and Industry | State: Chapter 175 | State agency with oversight and administrative responsibilities for construction codes and licensing, wage and hour issues, OSHA, and workers' compensation |

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| E and T Services | Employment and Training Services; Workforce Development | State: Chapter 116L | DEED-run workforce development programs and services, including: job training, placement, search, counseling, and creation; workforce investment activities; the displaced homemaker program; youth training and employment; Conservation Corps; apprenticeships; CDCs; and OICs |
| EB | Extended Benefits | State: § 268.115 | Additional unemployment benefits available after regular benefits are exhausted |
| EDA | Economic Development Authority | State: §§ 469.090-469.1082 | Public authorities focused on local development that are authorized by statute and created by local governments. EDAs have broad powers that include bonding; property acquisition, conveyance, and sale; eminent domain; contracting; and other powers specified in Chapter 469. |
| EE | Extended Employment | State: § 268A.15 | Programs that offer employment and supportive services for persons with disabilities |
| ESS | Employment Support Services | State: § 268A.13 | Statewide program of grants to provide employment services to persons with mental illness |
| FAERT | Fast Action Economic Response Team | State: § 116J.872 | DEED operation that contacts, within 24 hours, businesses that are identified as at risk for relocating or expanding outside of Minnesota or which have prospects of expanding or relocating in Minnesota. The team then works with the businesses to encourage growth in Minnesota. |
| FLSA | Fair Labor Standards Act | Federal: 29 U.S.C §§ 201-219 State: Chapter 177 | Provides for minimum wage, overtime, and other basic workplace protections |
| FMLA | Family Medical Leave Act | Federal: 29 U.S.C. § 2601 , et seq State: Chapter 181 | Provides for medical, parental, and other designated leave |
| GAP | Small Business Growth Acceleration Program | State: § 116O.115 | Program for manufacturers with less than 250 employees, supplying financing and technical assistance for implementing business and technology improvements |

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| GF | General Fund | State: § 16A.54 | Funds deposited in the treasury for the usual, ordinary, running, and incidental expenses of state government; does not include moneys deposited for special or dedicated purposes |
| GWDB | Governor's Workforce Development Board | Federal: 29 U.S.C. § 3111 State: § 116L.665 | State board that performs specific duties under WIOA, such as approving the state's WIOA plan. Composed of members specified by state and federal law, representing employers, employees, educational institutions, community groups, and government. |
| ICs | Independent Contractor | State: § 181.723 ; Chapters 176 and 268 | Persons working in an employment relationship that is not an employer-employee relationship. Chapter 176 is workers' compensation provisions; Chapter 181 is criteria and registration of independent contractors; and Chapter 268 is unemployment insurance provisions. |
| IRRRB | Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board | State: § 116J.424 and Chapter 298 | Board funded generally by minerals taxation; focuses on improving the economy of northeastern Minnesota |
| JCF | Minnesota Job Creation Fund | State: § 116J.8748 | Program that certifies businesses as eligible for capital investment rebates and cash awards for qualifying job creation |
| JSP | Jobs Skills Partnership | State: § 116L.02 | Job training program that brings employers with specific training needs together with schools and nonprofits that can design programs to meet those needs. Provides grants to fund this training development |
| LMI | Labor Market Information | mn.gov/deed/data/ | Unit in DEED that collects and analyzes data regarding jobs, the workforce, demographics, unemployment, etc. |
| LWDA/LWDB | Local Workforce Development Area/Local Workforce Development Board | Federal: Public Law 113-128 State: § 116L.666 | The local level of organization for state and federal WIOA training programs, governed locally by a board composed of representatives of employers, employees, educational institutions, and government |
| MFIP | Minnesota Family Investment Program | State: Chapter 256 | State public assistance program for low-income persons |

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| MIF | Minnesota Investment Fund | State: § 116J.8731 | Program administered by DEED as part of the Small Cities Development Block Grant Program to provide financing and technical assistance to local communities for business startups, expansion, and retention |
| MIFs | Minnesota Initiative Foundations | https://www.greatermnnesota.net/about/ | Six private regional foundations created by the McKnight Foundation to strengthen the communities and economies of greater Minnesota |
| MJSPB | Minnesota Job Skills Partnership Board | State: § 116L.03 | Board that governs the Job Skills Partnership program. Membership and appointment process set in statute |
| MMB | Minnesota Management and Budget | State: Chapter 16A | State agency charged with oversight of state finances and human resources. Produces the state budget forecasts and fiscal note information. |
| MN.IT | Minnesota Information Technology Services | State: Chapter 16E | State agency charged with oversight and management of information and telecommunications technology policy, systems, and services |
| MnOSHA | Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Act | State: Chapter 182 | Provides state-level occupational safety and health standards, investigations, and enforcement |
| MNSCU | Minnesota State Colleges and Universities | State: Chapter 136F | System of public community and technical colleges and universities. Renamed “Minnesota State.” |
| NAICS | North American Industry Classification System | www.census.gov/naics/ | National industry classification system that assigns businesses a numerical code based on its primary business activity. Similar to SIC. |
| NFPA | National Fire Protection Association | State: Chapters 299F and 326B | National association whose standards are referenced in the state fire and building codes |
| NLRA/ NLRB | National Labor Relations Act/ National Labor Relations Board | Federal: 29 U.S.C. §§ 151-169 State: Chapter 179 | Federal law governing collective bargaining, preempts state law in all areas covered. State law governs on issues not covered under federal law. |
| OIC | Opportunities Industrialization Centers | www.oicofamerica.org/ | Nonprofit entities focused on workforce development for disadvantaged Minnesotans |
| OSHA | Occupational Safety and Health Administration | Federal: 29 U.S.C. § 651 et seq. | Federal agency tasked with setting and enforcing occupational safety and health related standards. States are allowed to set up state systems as well. |

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| PELRA | Public Employment Labor Relations Act | State: Chapter 179A | Provides for collective bargaining and labor relations for public employees |
| PERB | Public Employment Relations Board | State: § 179A.041 | Board that oversees PELRA and provides mediation services. |
| PW | Prevailing Wage | State: §§ 177.41-177.44 | Provides for prevailing wage for public works projects using state money |
| SAWW | State Average Weekly Wage | State: Chapters 176 and 268 | A statewide average weekly wage used in calculating unemployment and workers' compensation benefits |
| SBA | Small Business Administration | Federal: Public Law 85-536 | Federal agency designed to help small businesses nationwide with a wide variety of business concerns |
| SBC | State Building Code | State: Chapter 326B | State laws and rules that cover building construction activities. Incorporates national and international standards by reference. Also just called "the code." |
| SBDC | Small Business Development Centers | Federal: 15 U.S.C. § 648 State: § 116J.68 | Network of assistance centers around the state that provide guidance and technical assistance to small businesses. Joint effort of DEED and the federal SBA. |
| SBIR/ SSTR | Small Business Innovation Research/ Small Business Technology Transfer | Federal: Small Business Administration | Competitive grant programs administered by the SBA to link small, high-tech, innovative businesses and the federal government's research and development efforts |
| SIC | Standard Industrial Classification | www.osha.gov/pls/imis/sicsearch.html | National industry classification system that assigns a business a 4-digit code based on its area of activity. Similar to NAIC. |
| Small Cities CDBG | Small Cities Community Development Block Grant | Federal: 42 U.S.C. §§ 5301-5317 State: Chapter 116J | Federally authorized program that provides money to address community needs like housing |
| Snowbate | Film Production Jobs Program | State: § 116U.26 | Reimbursement for a percentage of the production costs of projects filmed in Minnesota |
| SR | Special Revenue Fund | State: Chapter 16A | Special purpose fund created in the state treasury separate from the general fund; special revenue fund dollars are usually explicitly dedicated by law and expenditures are usually restricted by law |

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| SRRT | State Rapid Response Team | https://mn.gov/deed/business/starting-business/management-basics/considering-layoff.jsp | Team within DEED's dislocated worker program that works with employers undergoing mass layoffs or plant closings to provide employment services for transitioning employees |
| SSB | State Services for the Blind | State: Chapter 248 | Unit within DEED that develops and administers programs serving the needs of blind and visually disabled persons; separate from vocational rehab |
| STEP | State Trade and Export Promotion Grants | State: § 116J.979 | Supplies financial and technical assistance to small businesses with interest in exporting products or services to foreign markets |
| TANF | Temporary Assistance to Needy Families | Federal: Public Law 104-193 | Federal income maintenance program. MFIP is the state's TANF program. |
| U of M | University of Minnesota | State: Chapter 137 | Minnesota's land grant university |
| UI | Unemployment Insurance | State: Chapter 268 | Provides jobless benefits to eligible unemployed individuals |
| ULJ | Unemployment Law Judge | State: Chapter 268 | Administrative judges in DEED that review UI administrative appeals. Departmental proceedings may be appealed to the judicial system through state Appeals Court. |
| ULP | Unfair Labor Practice | State: § 179.11-179.12 | An action by an employer or employee that violates state labor laws, such as the Minnesota Labor Relations Act |
| U.S.C. | United States Code | | Federal statutes |
| Voc-Rehab | Vocational Rehabilitation | State: Chapter 268A | Unit in DEED that oversees vocational and rehabilitative services for persons with disabilities |
| WARN | Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification | Federal: 29 U.S.C. §§ 2101-2109 State: § 116L.976 | Plant closing, relocation, or substantial layoff notification procedures required under federal law |
| WC | Workers' Compensation | State: Chapter 176 | Provides for workers' compensation coverage and procedures |
| WCCA | Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals | State: Chapter 175A | Independent agency consisting of five judges appointed by the governor. Hears workers' compensation appeals exclusively. Appeals from WCCA go to the state Supreme Court. |
| WCRA | Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association | State: § 79.34 | Nonprofit organization that reinsures all workers' compensation insurers and self-insured employers in Minnesota |

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| WDA | Workforce Development Area | State: § 116L.666 | Designated by DEED commissioner to administer federal, state, and local employment and training services. A local workforce development board must be established in each designated area. |
| WDF | Workforce Development Fund | State: § 116L.20 | Special fund financed by assessment on same base as UI taxes, pays for employment and training programs |
| WFC | Workforce Center | Federal: WIOA State: Chapter 116L | Location where federal, state, and local employment and training services are provided to job seekers and employers |
| WIOA | Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act | Federal: Public Law 113–128 | Federal law that covers broad range of employment and training programs and services; focus on partnership with businesses to deliver workforce development services in conjunction with Local Workforce Development Boards. |



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