

Final Report to the Minnesota Legislature  
Enterprise Minnesota  
Small Business Growth Acceleration Program - Operations  
Minnesota Statutes 116O.115  
Period Ending June 2022

Minnesota Department and Economic Development

The Minnesota Legislature, during the 2019 Session, adopted legislation and appropriated \$450,000 each year to the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to be used as a grant to Enterprise Minnesota during the biennium. Enterprise Minnesota is a non-profit organization, based in Minneapolis, serving all of Minnesota.

During the 2017 session, DEED entered into grant agreement #SPAP-19-0033-P-FY20 with Enterprise Minnesota to establish and operate a Small Business Growth Acceleration Program Operations to help small manufacturing companies that need assistance to stay in business, grow and compete. Under the Authority of Minnesota Statutes 116O.115, the 2019 grant provides direct matching funds of \$450,000 (\$427,500 after State administrative fees) for each fiscal year, FY20 & FY21. Funding is used to deliver Enterprise Minnesota's growth services to Minnesota's small and mid-sized manufacturing companies.

Small Business Growth Acceleration Program Operations funds are targeted to assist qualified firms with the following activities.

- A. Identify, analyze and assess eligible manufacturers with the greatest potential to develop, achieve growth and create and retain jobs.
- B. Prospect to a balance of geographic and industry subsections with greatest emphasis on manufacturers outside the Minneapolis St Paul Metropolitan area and companies employing 250 or fewer people.
- C. Propose collaborative initiatives addressing priorities improvement opportunities and secure the manufacturers commitments.
- D. Delivery of proposed consulting technical assistance and follow-up on implementation of said services.
- E. Aiding eligible firms to foster business improvements, increase job creation and job potential, and contribute to the quality of life of citizens and communities throughout Minnesota.

For the twelve months ended June 2022, the end of the required annual reporting period for the Small Business Growth Acceleration Program, Enterprise Minnesota has:

- Fiscal FY20 Summary:
  - A total of \$427,500 on the FY20 program was disbursed as of June 30, 2021.
  - Using the FY20 grant funds, Enterprise Minnesota Inc. served 84 unique clients. Of these clients 72 employee less than 100 employees, 44 have less than 50 employees.

- Geographically 73% of the clients are outside the 7-county metro area. Multiple industries subsection were funding recipients including but not limited to general purpose machinery manufacturing, elevator and moving stairway manufacturing, fluid power pump and motor manufacturing, painting and coating manufacturing and special die and tool.
- Fiscal FY21 Summary:
  - A total of \$427,500 on the FY21 program was disbursed during the reporting period. The full grant was utilized by June 30, 2022.
  - Using the FY21 grant funds Enterprise Minnesota Inc. served 72 unique clients. Of these clients 62 employee less than 100 employees with 47 clients having less than 50 employees.
  - Geographically 60% of the clients are outside the 7-county metro area. 56 industries subsections were funding recipients included plastic product manufacturing, machine shop, lighting equipment manufacturing, metal household furniture manufacturing and truss manufacturing and travel trailer and camper manufacturing.
- Assessments provide an independent review of a business' strengths and weaknesses and provide a formal report with recommendations for actions to improve their business to the clients. Assessment services delivered by Enterprise Minnesota Inc. include quality control, revenue growth, lean manufacturing enterprise valuation, cyber security and leadership development.
- Based on past client outreach Enterprise Minnesota estimates a return of \$20 - \$30 every \$1 invested in the program (for the 4 quarters ending 03/31/2022 the ROI was greater than \$150:1). Return on investment estimates are based on similar services and similar companies surveyed by an independent third party. For this reporting period, 175 companies responded through an independent survey group associated with the Federal Dept. of Commerce. The respondents attributed increased sales, cost reductions and investments totaling \$623 million with 3,086 jobs created or retained.
- Progress reports on the results of the Small Business Growth Acceleration Program Operations will be provided to the Legislature following the completion of each grant period. That report will include an estimate of the financial impact of funds awarded to each company receiving service under the program, as prescribed by M.S. 116O.115, Subd. 6.

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