Table of Contents
University Of Minnesota

University of Minnesota — Agency Profile

https://www.umn.edu

AT A GLANCE

Campuses located in Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, and the Twin Cities; ten research and outreach centers across MN; MN Extension serves all 87 counties

Teaching & Learning - 68,366 students, including undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree

- 73% of all degree-seeking undergraduate students systemwide are from Minnesota
- Over two-thirds of employed graduates work for an organization in Minnesota

Research & Discovery - Over $1.2 billion in systemwide research expenditures annually

- 23 new startups launched in 2023; 250+ start-up companies since 2006
- Twin Cities campus is ranked 12th among U.S. public research institutions

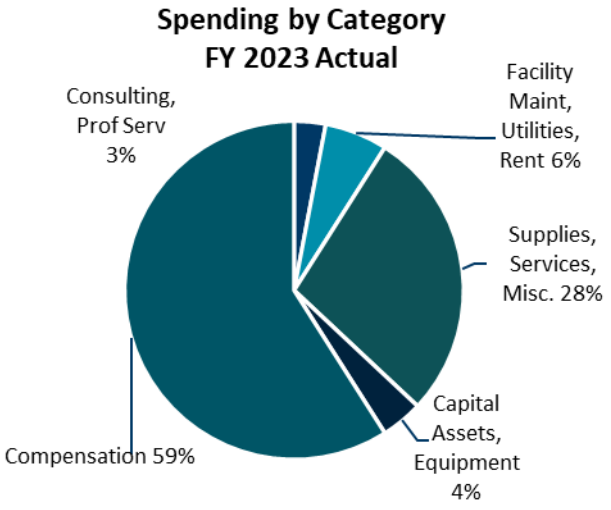
Outreach & Public Service – Outreach and public services impacting communities statewide such as:

- Clinical care for Minnesotans, including 13+ M Physicians clinics, mobile health and dental units, and partnerships with the University Community Health Care Center (CUHCC) and other health systems
- Minnesota's 4H program, serving 40,000 youth across the state each year
- Interlibrary Loan Program, lending 24,036 books to Minnesotans last year (collaboration with OHE)
- Other statewide resources, such as the Bell Museum and Landscape Arboretum

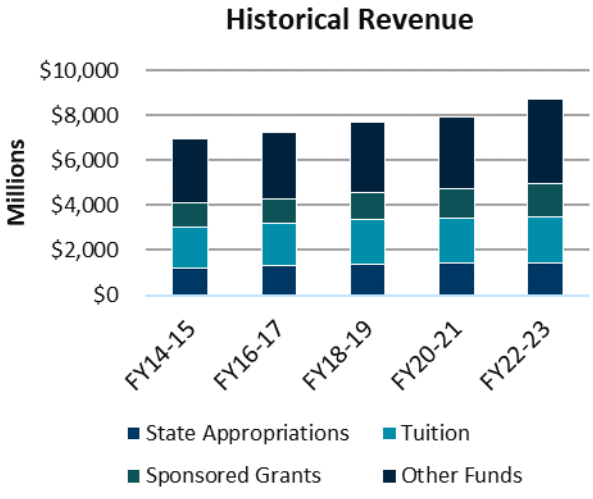
PURPOSE

The University of Minnesota's mission, within Minnesota's higher education system, is to "offer undergraduate, graduate, and professional instruction through the doctoral degree and shall be the primary state supported academic agency for research and extension services" (MN Statute 135A.052). The University's working mission is threefold: teaching and learning, research and discovery, and outreach and public service. As one of the nation's top research institutions and the state's only land grant university, the University of Minnesota is committed to providing world-class learning, discovery, and service to improve outcomes for all Minnesotans and the world.

BUDGET



Source: University of Minnesota, General Ledger



Source: University of Minnesota, General Ledger

The University's $4.4 billion in total revenue for FY 2023 includes funding from a variety of sources: tuition (23%); restricted sources such as philanthropy, grants, and contracts (20%); sponsored research grants from federal government and other sources (17%); state appropriation (16%); miscellaneous income from sales, fees, etc. (15%); and auxiliary business operations (9%). The University's budget funds the Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, and Twin Cities campuses as well as ten research and outreach centers, a multitude of research centers and institutes, and fifteen regional Extension offices with services in all 87 counties. Across those campuses and organizations, there are fifty unique budgeting units (Greater MN campuses, Twin Cities colleges, major support departments, etc.). The University uses its state operations and maintenance appropriation for all aspects of the University system.

The University values its partnership with the State of Minnesota to deliver its mission and responsibilities, as defined in state statute. Over the last two decades, as the proportion of state general fund dollars allocated to higher education has decreased, the University has become more reliant on tuition and other non-state revenues. Growth in the state operations and maintenance and state special appropriations, which provide the base level funding for the University's core functions and operations, have lagged inflation and not kept pace with general growth in University activities. As a result, the University has relied on tuition increases and budget cuts to fund core operations, provide salary adjustments for employees, and address ever-changing student service needs and growth in research.

STRATEGIES

The University of Minnesota is a unique partner in Minnesota's higher education ecosystem. Linkages between our three missions – education, research, and outreach - mean that students benefit both academically and in their careers from research and outreach experiences and working alongside world-renowned faculty. This collaborative work also benefits Minnesota communities. Whether they are undergraduate students participating in a new startup or professional students providing care and services in urban and rural areas in the fields of medicine, dentistry, and public health: the University of Minnesota's contributions are unique.

As a leading national university, the University of Minnesota attracts top-tier faculty, staff and students whose contributions benefit the state, our nation and the world. To maintain our commitment to excellence as state general fund dollars make up a smaller proportion of University resources, the University anticipates it will need to prioritize specific programs, services, and activities while reducing and eliminating others in order to maintain excellence - ultimately impacting our students and Minnesota, more generally. It is with this in mind that the University will embark on a new strategic planning process in fiscal year 2025 under the leadership of President Rebecca Cunningham, and the new plan will guide our actions starting in the FY 2026-2027 biennium.

Over the next biennium, the University of Minnesota's efforts will continue to capitalize on the strengths of each campus and Minnesota Extension:

- **Crookston Campus**: With 75+ majors, minors, and certificates and 300+ scholarship opportunities, the University of Minnesota Crookston is known for its campus-based experiential learning and is also one of the nation's pioneers in online and distance education. Since COVID, the Crookston campus has shown increased enrollment and improved retention. 93% of Crookston grads find jobs in their field.
- **Duluth Campus**: The University of Minnesota Duluth has 87 majors and 24 graduate fields of study and blends the benefits of a great location, a personalized learning experience, and meaningful research on a medium-sized campus with over 9,000 students. The campus has an annual economic impact of over $500 million on the region, and 98% of graduates report being employed or continuing their education.
- **Morris Campus**: The University of Minnesota Morris is a nationally ranked, residential, undergraduate liberal arts campus with a deep commitment to environmental sustainability and access to higher education. The "Morris experience" emphasizes faculty-student collaborative research, leadership and study abroad opportunities, and community engagement. The Morris campus offers an option for a three-year graduation plan for each of its 32 majors.

- **Rochester Campus**: The University of Minnesota Rochester offers distinctive health sciences education to prepare students for a broad range of Minnesota's high-demand health careers. Having closed the achievement gap with a student body that reflects Minnesota's diversity, Rochester's national model for "College-in-3" is designed to increase student success while decreasing student costs.
- **Twin Cities Campus**: The University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus enrolled 54,890 undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students in Fall 2023 and is one of only five campuses in the U.S. with schools of engineering, medicine, veterinary medicine, law, and agriculture on a single campus – all of which serve communities and various sectors that drive Minnesota's economy. Because of the Twin Cities campus size and scope of programs, unique opportunities exist for interdisciplinary education, research, and outreach. U.S. News and World Report ranks the Twin Cities campus as #23 among US public universities, and the National Science Foundation-HERD survey ranks it 12th among that same group. The interdisciplinary nature and breadth of Twin Cities campus programs attracts high caliber faculty and students from Minnesota and across the globe – ultimately building Minnesota's workforce, fueling the economy, and strengthening communities across the state.
- **Minnesota Extension**: Extension researchers and educators engage individuals and organizations in asking challenging questions to discover science-based answers. They build a better future for Minnesotans by bringing University science-based knowledge, expertise, and training to everyday problems. Extension works in rural, suburban, urban, and tribal communities and serves more than 1 million people through Extension education.

RESULTS

The University of Minnesota's community of dedicated faculty and staff drive excellence across its three missions of teaching and learning, research and discovery, and outreach and public service. To measure the University's progress towards its strategic goals, the University has utilized a series of performance measures. Current results are showcased on a Progress Card (see https://www.president.umn.edu/mpact-2025). Below is a small sample of recent progress card measures and their associated results. Measures will be updated in summer 2025 as the current strategic plan concludes and the next begins.

- Over 10% of Minnesota High School graduates attend one of the University's five campuses as freshman.
- The University offers over $300M in institutional gift aid for our students, yielding the lowest net price of any 4-year institution in Minnesota for families earning less than $110,000.
- Average student debt is $1,545 below the national average, and 48% of undergraduate students systemwide graduate with no debt.
- Over 32% of University freshman systemwide identify as BIPOC, and over 20% are from underrepresented populations.
- Twin Cities campus has a 75% 4-year graduation rate, and an 85% 6-year graduation rate.
- The University of Minnesota Medical School was ranked #24 in the nation in 2023 by the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research, outperforming Mayo for a second consecutive year.
- All five campuses have achieved the Carnegie Community Engaged designation.

The following table classifies the above measures and highlights trends over the course of the strategic plan:

Measure name	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Percent of MN high school graduates who attend the U of M campuses as freshmen	Results	Minnesota Department of Education & UMN UDIR (University Data & Institutional Reporting) New Student Characteristics data set	Baseline (2020-21, for 2019 grad year): 10.4% Trend: Increasing	2023-24, for 2022 grad year: 10.6%

Measure name	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Institutional gift aid	Quantity	UMN Office of Undergraduate Education student finance data	Baseline (2020-21, for 2020 aid year): $281M Trend: Increasing	2023-24, for 2023 aid year: $307.3M
Average student debt for those who borrow relative to the national average	Results	UMN Office of Undergraduate Education / University Finance & Common Data Set (CDS)	Baseline (2020-21, for 2019 grad year): $2,155 below the national average Trend: Decreasing	2023-24, for 2022 grad year: $1,545 below the national average
Percent of University freshman systemwide who identify as BIPOC / % from underrepresented populations	Results	UDIR (University Data & Institutional Reporting) STIX official enrollment data set (10th day of Twin Cities undergraduate term)	Baseline (2020-21, for Fall 2020 new freshmen): 26.1% BIPOC / 15.5% under-represented Trend: Increasing	2023-24, for Fall 2023 new freshmen: 32.3% BIPOC / 20.5% under-represented
4-year graduation rate - Twin Cities Campus	Results	UDIR (University Data & Institutional Reporting) Retention & Graduation official data set (last Monday of October)	Baseline (2020-21, for Fall 2016 new TC freshmen): 72.7% Trend: Increasing	2023-24, for Fall 2019 new TC freshmen: 74.5%
6-year graduation rate - Twin Cities Campus	Results	UDIR (University Data & Institutional Reporting) Retention & Graduation official data set (last Monday of October)	Baseline (2020-21, for Fall 2014 new TC freshmen): 84.5% Trend: Increasing	2023-24, for Fall 2017 new TC freshmen: 85.0%
Medical School's NIH Blue Ridge Ranking	Results	Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research: https://brimr.org/brimr-rankings-of-nih-funding-in-2023/	Baseline (2020-21, for federal fiscal year ending 30 September 2019): 27 Trend: Rank is elevating	2023-24, for federal fiscal year ending 30 September 2023: 24th in the nation
Achieve Carnegie Community Engaged designation	Quality	Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education (https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Carnegie_CurrentClassifiedInstitutions.pdf)	Baseline (2020-21): Morris and Twin Cities	2023-24: All five campuses achieved this designation

The full "University Performance and Accountability Report" (see https://president.umn.edu/mpact-2025), is required under the University's charter, 1851 Territorial Laws, Chapter 3, Section 16, where it states that "[the regents shall] make a report annually, to the Legislature…exhibiting the state and progress of the University…and such other information as they may deem proper*---- or may from time to time be required of them." The

University of Minnesota's Performance and Accountability Report, along with the University Progress Card, is updated and formally reviewed and approved by the Board of Regents.

Minnesota Statutes 137 (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/137) provides the legal authority for the University of Minnesota.

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY22	Actual FY23	Actual FY24	Estimate FY25	Forecast Base FY26	Forecast Base FY27	Governor's Recommendation FY26	Governor's Recommendation FY27
Expenditures by Fund								
1000 - General	690,519	690,506	769,928	758,382	749,014	749,014	749,014	749,014
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	22,373	22,363	22,355	22,571	22,362	22,362	22,362	22,362
2018 - Agriculture			800	75	100	100	100	100
2050 - Environment & Natural Resources	13,624	15,153	18,807	62,439				
2302 - Clean Water	2,673	1,295	1,500	2,500			1,400	1,400
2340 - Renewable Development	10,000							
2360 - Health Care Access	2,157	2,157	2,157	2,157	2,157	2,157	2,157	2,157
2390 - Workforce Development				250				
4925 - Family and Medical Benefit Ins				1,372				
6000 - Miscellaneous Agency	6,279	1,228	8,915	706	483	487	483	487
Total	**747,625**	**732,703**	**824,462**	**850,452**	**774,116**	**774,120**	**775,516**	**775,520**
Biennial Change				194,587		(126,678)		(123,878)
Biennial % Change				13		(8)		(7)
Governor's Change from Base								2,800
Governor's % Change from Base								0

Expenditures by Program								
Permanent University Fund	6,279	1,228	8,915	706	483	487	483	487
Maintenance and Operations	621,831	621,818	686,558	677,666	672,294	672,294	672,294	672,294
Agriculture Special	42,922	42,922	42,922	42,922	42,922	42,922	42,922	42,922
Health Science Special	33,611	33,611	33,611	33,611	33,611	33,611	33,611	33,611
Technology Special	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,140
System Specials	7,431	7,431	9,181	9,181	7,181	7,181	7,181	7,181
LCMR/MN Resources	13,624	15,153	18,807	62,439				
Special Projects	12,796	1,408	15,337	14,796	8,494	8,494	9,894	9,894
U/Mayo Partnership	7,991	7,991	7,991	7,991	7,991	7,991	7,991	7,991
Total	**747,625**	**732,703**	**824,462**	**850,452**	**774,116**	**774,120**	**775,516**	**775,520**

Expenditures by Category								
Operating Expenses	19,557	19,557						
Grants, Aids and Subsidies	728,068	713,146	824,462	850,452	774,116	774,120	775,516	775,520
Total	**747,625**	**732,703**	**824,462**	**850,452**	**774,116**	**774,120**	**775,516**	**775,520**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY22	Actual FY23	Actual FY24	Estimate FY25	Forecast Base FY26	Forecast Base FY27	Governor's Recommendation FY26	Governor's Recommendation FY27
1000 - General								
Balance Forward In		137						
Direct Appropriation	690,656	690,656	765,596	752,832	744,982	744,982	744,982	744,982
Transfers In	17,400	17,400	4,332	5,550	4,032	4,032	4,032	4,032
Transfers Out	17,400	17,687						
Balance Forward Out	137							
Expenditures	**690,519**	**690,506**	**769,928**	**758,382**	**749,014**	**749,014**	**749,014**	**749,014**
Biennial Change in Expenditures				147,285		(30,282)		(30,282)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				11		(2)		(2)
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue								
Balance Forward In	0		14	209				
Direct Appropriation	22,250	22,250	22,250	22,250	22,250	22,250	22,250	22,250
Transfers In	122	127	300	112	112	112	112	112
Balance Forward Out		14	209					
Expenditures	**22,373**	**22,363**	**22,355**	**22,571**	**22,362**	**22,362**	**22,362**	**22,362**
Biennial Change in Expenditures				190		(202)		(202)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		(0)		(0)
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0
2018 - Agriculture								
Transfers In			800	75	100	100	100	100
Expenditures			**800**	**75**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Biennial Change in Expenditures				875		(675)		(675)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						(77)		(77)
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0
2050 - Environment & Natural Resources								
Balance Forward In	34,041	36,945	41,205	36,514				
Direct Appropriation	16,893	19,605	14,584	25,761	0	0	0	0

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY22	Actual FY23	Actual FY24	Estimate FY25	Forecast Base FY26	Forecast Base FY27	Governor's Recommendation FY26	Governor's Recommendation FY27
Transfers In				164				
Transfers Out	78							
Cancellations	287	191	468					
Balance Forward Out	36,945	41,205	36,514					
Expenditures	**13,624**	**15,153**	**18,807**	**62,439**				
Biennial Change in Expenditures				52,469		(81,246)		(81,246)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				182		(100)		(100)
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								

2302 - Clean Water

Direct Appropriation	2,673	1,295	1,500	2,500	0	0	1,400	1,400
Expenditures	**2,673**	**1,295**	**1,500**	**2,500**			**1,400**	**1,400**
Biennial Change in Expenditures				32		(4,000)		(1,200)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				1		(100)		(30)
Governor's Change from Base								2,800
Governor's % Change from Base								

2340 - Renewable Development

Direct Appropriation	10,000							
Expenditures	**10,000**							
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(10,000)		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures								
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								

2360 - Health Care Access

Direct Appropriation	2,157	2,157	2,157	2,157	2,157	2,157	2,157	2,157
Expenditures	**2,157**	**2,157**	**2,157**	**2,157**	**2,157**	**2,157**	**2,157**	**2,157**
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY22	Actual FY23	Actual FY24	Estimate FY25	Forecast Base FY26	Forecast Base FY27	Governor's Recommendation FY26	Governor's Recommendation FY27
2390 - Workforce Development								
Direct Appropriation			250		0	0	0	0
Expenditures			**250**					
Biennial Change in Expenditures			250			(250)		(250)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures								
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								
4925 - Family and Medical Benefit Ins								
Direct Appropriation			1,372		0	0	0	0
Expenditures			**1,372**					
Biennial Change in Expenditures			1,372			(1,372)		(1,372)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures								
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								
6000 - Miscellaneous Agency								
Transfers In	6,279	1,228	8,915	706	483	487	483	487
Expenditures	**6,279**	**1,228**	**8,915**	**706**	**483**	**487**	**483**	**487**
Biennial Change in Expenditures				2,114		(8,651)		(8,651)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				28		(90)		(90)
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	Biennium 2026-27
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2025 Appropriations	**752,832**	**752,832**	**752,832**	**1,505,664**
Base Adjustments				
All Other One-Time Appropriations		(2,500)	(2,500)	(5,000)
Current Law Base Change		(5,350)	(5,350)	(10,700)
Forecast Base	**752,832**	**744,982**	**744,982**	**1,489,964**
Total Governor's Recommendations	**752,832**	**744,982**	**744,982**	**1,489,964**
Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue				
FY2025 Appropriations	**22,250**	**22,250**	**22,250**	**44,500**
Forecast Base	**22,250**	**22,250**	**22,250**	**44,500**
Total Governor's Recommendations	**22,250**	**22,250**	**22,250**	**44,500**
Fund: 2050 - Environment & Natural Resources				
FY2025 Appropriations	**25,761**	**25,761**	**25,761**	**51,522**
Base Adjustments				
All Other One-Time Appropriations		(25,761)	(25,761)	(51,522)
Forecast Base	**25,761**			
Total Governor's Recommendations	**25,761**			
Fund: 2302 - Clean Water				
FY2025 Appropriations	**2,500**	**2,500**	**2,500**	**5,000**
Base Adjustments				
One-Time Legacy Fund Appropriations		(2,500)	(2,500)	(5,000)
Forecast Base	**2,500**			
Change Items				
Clean Water Legacy - County Geologic Atlas Part A		400	400	800
Clean Water Legacy - Stormwater Research and Technology Transfer Program		1,000	1,000	2,000
Total Governor's Recommendations	**2,500**	**1,400**	**1,400**	**2,800**
Fund: 2360 - Health Care Access				
FY2025 Appropriations	**2,157**	**2,157**	**2,157**	**4,314**
Forecast Base	**2,157**	**2,157**	**2,157**	**4,314**
Total Governor's Recommendations	**2,157**	**2,157**	**2,157**	**4,314**
Fund: 2390 - Workforce Development				
FY2025 Appropriations	**250**	**250**	**250**	**500**
Base Adjustments				

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	Biennium 2026-27
All Other One-Time Appropriations		(250)	(250)	(500)
Forecast Base	**250**			
Total Governor's Recommendations	**250**			
Fund: 4925 - Family and Medical Benefit Ins				
FY2025 Appropriations	**1,372**	**1,372**	**1,372**	**2,744**
Base Adjustments				
All Other One-Time Appropriations		(1,372)	(1,372)	(2,744)
Forecast Base	**1,372**			
Total Governor's Recommendations	**1,372**			
Dedicated				
Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue				
Planned Spending	**132**	**112**	**112**	**224**
Forecast Base	**132**	**112**	**112**	**224**
Total Governor's Recommendations	**132**	**112**	**112**	**224**
Fund: 2018 - Agriculture				
Planned Spending	**75**	**100**	**100**	**200**
Forecast Base	**75**	**100**	**100**	**200**
Total Governor's Recommendations	**75**	**100**	**100**	**200**

University of Minnesota

FY 2026-27 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Clean Water Legacy - County Geologic Atlas Part A

Fiscal Impact ($000s)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Fund				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	400	400	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	400	400	0	0

Recommendation:

In alignment with the Clean Water Council's FY 2026-2027 recommendations, the Governor recommends $400,000 in FY 2026 and $400,000 in FY 2027 from the Clean Water Fund for the County Geologic Atlas Part A to continue comprehensive geologic mapping required for managing water and mineral resources.

Rationale/Background:

Geologic atlases provide maps and databases that are essential for improved ground and surface water management. This foundational data supports drinking water management, domestic and industrial supply, irrigation, and aquatic habitats. County geologic atlases are specifically identified as essential data in designing a sustainable water management process in the Statewide Conservation Plan as well as in the efforts of the Environmental Quality Board, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Eco-Waters, and the Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota. Distribution of geologic materials defines aquifer boundaries. The connection of aquifers to land surface and surface water resources enables a comprehensive water management effort.

Proposal:

To date, these Clean Water Fund (CWF) resources helped produce atlases in 23 counties including Houston, Winona, Brown, Redwood, Washington, Isanti, Wadena, Cass, Hennepin, Dodge, Olmsted, St. Louis, Lake, Dakota, and Otter Tail. Atlases that are currently in-production with CWF support include Red Lake, Polk, Pennington, Douglas, Grant, Ramsey, Lake of the Woods and Beltrami.

The cost to complete an atlas is approximately $500,000. The FY 2026 requested funds will ensure continuation of this work by either completing one, or more, of the atlases currently in production or developing an atlas in one of the eight Minnesota counties the project has yet to begin. With three atlases typically started each year, the current pace will track atlas completion across the entire state within the next decade. However, due to staffing changes, the pace of atlas starts has slowed somewhat. The program's annual budget is approximately $2 million, with its majority from the Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund. Per Minnesota Statute 114D.50 Subdivision 3, this proposal will supplement previous project funding and will allow us to continue our efforts uninterrupted from year to year.

Costs can vary over time depending on the phase of work in a particular county. In general, 90 percent of the budget will be spent on personnel costs; 5 percent on drilling operations; and the remaining 5 percent on supplies, travel, and printing.

A complete geologic atlas consists of Part A constructed by the Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) and focused on geology and the County Well Index, and Part B constructed by the DNR Eco-Waters Division (funded separately) and focused on groundwater. Atlases enhance natural resource management and regulation and facilitate wise use of water resources. They support permitting, land use planning, wellhead protection, remediation, nutrient management, monitoring, modeling, and well construction. Atlas information is used by citizens, local government, counties, and state agencies (SWCDs, MDH, DNR, MPCA, Ag).

Atlases begin with compilation of a database of subsurface information including well records. The county establishes accurate digital locations for these wells. Concurrently, geologists visit the project area to describe and sample landforms, and exposures of rock or sediment.

An initial assessment of the geologic data is then completed to focus additional data gathering including shallow and deep drilling programs and geophysical, geochemical, and geochronologic surveys. Analysis of the data set is then completed, and maps and associated databases are formalized and prepared for use in geographic information systems and distribution via DVD and web. Most of the products are also printed for use in the field, and by users who prefer this format.

Impact on Children and Families:
Improved quality of drinking water provides health benefits for all Minnesotans.

Equity and Inclusion:
The program objective is to ensure every Minnesota county will have an atlas as soon as reasonably possible so every Minnesota resident can enjoy similar drinking water protection standards as well as ongoing maintenance of this information infrastructure.

Tribal Consultation:
MGS has communicated with all the tribal nations within the state—explaining who we are and what we do as part of our mapping programs. Currently, 4 of the 12 tribal nations, including Lake Superior Band of Chippewa (Grand Portage), Upper Sioux, Mille Lacs, and Bois Forte, do not wish to participate in the CGA program. The tribal lands of these nations will remain unmapped in our atlas products.

Results:
Below are two measures for the ongoing work associated with the County Geologic Atlas Part A request:

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Most recent data	Projected change
How many counties were completed?	Quantity	Quantity is determined either by complete CGA products for a county, or a combination of work on existing counties (equivalent to a CGA)	N/A	This award will cover the costs to complete the equivalent of ~1.5 CGA's (depending on the size and geologic complexity of the county

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Most recent data	Projected change
Ensure that the CGA is an accurate, reliable portrayal of the geologic framework.	Quality	MGS strives to create the most accurate and technologically advanced products possible. Our geologists evaluate all of the available data to make the best interpretations; GIS staff keep up to date on digital methods to display the information; All materials are subjected to in-house and outside peer review for content.	MGS is currently working with the USGS to create maps that adhere to a general, consistent format. This format will allow maps from across the country to be compiled into a single map that can be used and understood by more users. USGS follows a rigorous QA/QC process which all our recent publications have passed.	Now, only map products that are funded in part with USGS funds are required to be in this format. However, all our maps undergo a similar process from fieldwork to production. So, the same attention to detail is taken with all our work. We are also working with the University to create digitally accessible products.

University of Minnesota

FY 2026-27 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Clean Water Legacy – Stormwater Research & Technology Transfer Program

Fiscal Impact ($000s)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Fund				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	1,000	1,000	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	1,000	1,000	0	0
FTEs	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Recommendation:

In alignment with the Clean Water Council's FY2026-2027 recommendations (December 2024), the Governor recommends $1,000,000 in FY 2026 and $1,000,000 in FY 2027 to continue funding for the Urban Stormwater Research and Technology Transfer Program at the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center.

Rationale/Background:

The Urban Stormwater Research and Technology Transfer Program completes urban stormwater research addressing priority needs for Minnesota communities and for the public and private professionals working to manage water resources throughout the state. Efforts include the development of new and revised stormwater practices and policies and developing systematic ways of increasing effectiveness and efficiency of practices used to manage urban stormwater. The program also provides technology transfer of research results and training, outreach and Extension education to Minnesota community leaders, public and private practitioners, engineers, and planners. Since initial funding in FY 2016-2017, the program has only been able to award and complete approximately 30% of the proposed high priority research. This $2 million request would allow the program to address more of the unanswered questions revolving around urban stormwater management, develop additional management practices, increase the effectiveness of practices used frequently across Minnesota, and transfer that knowledge to Minnesota community leaders, practitioners, engineers, and planners.

Investing in urban stormwater research provides resources to address high priority needs communities, professionals, and policy leaders have about how management can be improved and how operation of practices can be enhanced. Furthermore, it identifies where increases in efficiency of practices and policies will protect, restore and minimize the impacts of runoff and pollutants. Applied research allows the more efficient and successful choice of best management practices. Research can also discover new practices and methods to increase function of these tools used frequently across the state. Continuing to invest in research brings the opportunity to ensure the 'best' is achieved in the best management practice (BMP) paradigm. Investing a portion of the program funding in technology transfer also ensures the discoveries are shared with those in Minnesota who can most benefit from them and that effective outreach, training, and resources are provided to them to incorporate this new science into decision making. The program supports the Climate Resilience One Minnesota goal through research that can assist public communities and private businesses design, install, operate and manage urban stormwater practices that will be more effective under changing climatic conditions and by reducing the impacts from runoff from extreme events. This program is supported by the Clean Water Council.

Proposal:

Ultimately, $2 million in funding for this request will lead to implementation of new and revised urban stormwater management practices and policies that protect and improve the health of Minnesota waters or mitigate and minimize the impacts to Minnesota water resources from urban runoff. This outcome of completed research will be paired with the transfer of new knowledge to practitioners, policy leaders, and professionals through efforts of Extension Education. The incorporation of this work and new discoveries into stormwater management guidance policies and manuals such as the Minnesota Stormwater Manual and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) and municipal storm water (MS4) implementation plans are additional outcomes. These outcomes support and complement the efforts of key state agencies such as the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. They also support multiple layers of local units of government including cities, counties, townships, and watersheds as well as private businesses and landowners that are required to manage and minimize the impacts of urban stormwater runoff.

Per Minnesota Statute 114D.50, Subdivision 3, these funds will supplement previous project funding and will be coordinated by the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center to fund qualified urban stormwater research projects chosen through a competitive, highly scientific and Minnesota applicable review process. We anticipate 10-15 research projects and a variety of Extension Education programs would be supported with the funds. Research and technology transfer activities involve a broad diversity of University faculty and departments, who also collaborate with public and private professionals from cities, counties, watershed units, state and Federal agencies, and from private environmental engineering enterprises. Use of the funds is informed by input from a center-led citizen advisory board. Approximately 70-80% of the funding will be awarded to research projects through competitive or direct allocation methods. 10-20% will be used to support technology transfer (Extension Education) programming with the remaining portion of the budget to fund the administration of the program.

Equity and Inclusion:

Diversity, inclusion, and equity aspects are considered during the prioritization, selection, and oversight of funded research projects and are central to the planning of Extension Education (Technology Transfer) activities. The Water Resources Center follows the University of Minnesota's diversity and inclusion practices to ensure equitable and inclusive selection of project teams. Further, reaching underrepresented groups is a pillar of research and technology transfer activities.

Tribal Consultation:

Tribal governments are invited and encouraged to participate in the program including submitting stormwater research priorities, nominating a tribal representative to serve on the advisory board, or by submitting research proposals and/or participating in research projects and technology transfer programs.

Results:

Outputs (measurements) for research include final reports, data, tools, models, formulas, revised design, installation, and operation and management guidelines. Outputs from technology transfer include training and resource guides, an increase in the number of professionals, policymakers, and practitioners engaged and trained and positive impacts on their knowledge, skills, and adoption of use (i.e. behavior change.)