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# FY25 Cannabis Industry Training Grants Annual Report

As required by Minn. Stat. § 116L.90 Subd. 6  
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As required by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost approximately \$518.12 to prepare, including staff time, printing, and mailing expenses.

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## Legislative History

As authorized in [Minn. Stat. § 116L.90](#), the Cannabis Industry Training (CanTrain) Grant Program was established to award grants to eligible organizations to train people for work in the legal cannabis industry and to support eligible individuals to acquire such training in Minnesota. The program is administered by the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

In the 2025 legislative session, the program was amended by [Laws of Minnesota 2025 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session, Ch. 6, Art. 4, Sec. 14](#), to remove the eligible individuals criteria from the CanTrain Program and award grants to eligible organizations to train people for work in the legal cannabis industry.

## CanTrain Program Overview

The DEED Adult Career Pathways division published a Request for Proposal (RFP) on March 21, 2025. Organizations seeking funding through the CanTrain Program were required to demonstrate that they were capable of providing training that is relevant to the legal cannabis industry, particularly for individuals facing barriers to education or employment. Eligible organizations included educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, private businesses, community groups, units of local government, labor organizations that represent cannabis workers in the state, or partnerships between different types of organizations.

CanTrain grant funds awarded to eligible organizations were used for providing relevant training to individuals and/or to develop training programs specific to the legal cannabis industry. Funds were also eligible to be used to provide scholarships to eligible individuals to pursue a training program relevant to a career in the legal cannabis industry including tuition, fees, and materials cost.

## Program Description

As authorized in statute, up to \$2 million in State Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) and \$2 million in FY25 was made available for grants to eligible organizations to train people for work in the legal cannabis industry. DEED utilized 4% of the appropriated funds to administer and monitor the program. A total of up to \$3,840,000 is available for grants through the CanTrain program.

Eligible organizations were able to apply for up to \$500,000 total in state funds through the RFP. The amount of the request needed to include the geographic reach, scale, and comprehensiveness of the expertise and services that the grant-supported project will provide.

Five organizations were awarded CanTrain grants utilizing funds allocated for FY24 and FY25. Due to the development timeline for the legal cannabis industry, training for employment was delayed until cannabis businesses received guidance from Office of Cannabis Management and state licenses were issued. Contracts for the five awarded projects began in fall 2025, with the ability to spend funds through June 2027.

**Table 1. FY25 Grant Awards**

Grantee	Servicing Location	FY25
Minneapolis Community and Technical College	Seven-County Metro area	\$403,530.00
Minnesota Training Partnerships	Seven-County Metro area	\$126,116.00
White Earth Tribal and Community College	White Earth Tribal Reservation and surrounding communities	\$500,000.00
Urban League Twin Cities	Seven-County Metro area	\$320,000.00
Minnesota Cannabis College	Seven-County Metro area	\$250,000.00

\$2,241,354.00 of the unallocated FY24-FY25 funds remained available and were included in the FY26-FY27 RFP published October 13, 2025. [Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, Ch 6, Art 1, Sec 2, Subd. 3\(m\)](#) appropriated \$250,000 each year in the FY26-FY27 biennium.

## Summary of Grantee Work Plans and Objectives

### *Minneapolis Community & Technical College*

**Program:** To develop curriculum and program development related to the cannabis industry, including equipment, supplies, staff, and marketing to launch a fully accredited MNState cannabis industry credit program by fall 2027. The grant is exclusively for the development of the training program.

**Objective:** To develop training and resources for entry-level cannabis jobs.

### *Minnesota Training Partnership*

**Program:** Launch the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Cannabis Workers’ Training Program in the Twin Cities, adapting the nationally accredited curriculum for local use in partnership with UFCW 1189 and area employers.

**Objective:** Prepare training and resources for entry-level cannabis jobs while testing and refining the program to prepare it for state accreditation and potential recognition as a Registered Apprenticeship Program.

- 10 individuals will enroll in the training program
- 9 individuals will complete the training and obtain cannabis-related certificate/credential
- 8 will be placed in unsubsidized jobs within the cannabis industry

### *White Earth Tribal and Community College*

**Program:** In collaboration with tribal and non-tribal entities, provide professional development opportunities in the cannabis sector in the areas of horticulture, extraction, manufacturing, budtending, retail, and the business of cannabis.

**Objective:** Prepare training and resources for entry-level cannabis jobs.

- 75 individuals will enroll in the training program
- 45 individuals will complete the training and obtain cannabis-related certificate/credentials
- 37 will be placed in unsubsidized jobs within the cannabis industry

### *Urban League Twin Cities*

**Program:** Provide scholarships and wraparound services to students who participate in one of three online classes through Green Flower, a cannabis certification provider.

**Objective:** Prepare training and resources for entry-level cannabis jobs.

- 40 individuals will enroll in the training program
- 32 individuals will complete the training and obtain cannabis-related certificate/credential
- 12 will be placed in unsubsidized jobs within the cannabis industry

*Minnesota Cannabis College*

**Program:** Provide Cannabis Cultivation Certificate Program: Focused on plant biology, cloning, propagation, and cultivation practices aligned with industry standards and/or Cannabis Retail Certificate Program (5 weeks): Focus on dispensary operations, compliance, customer engagement, and retail workplace readiness.

**Objective:** Prepare training and resources for entry-level cannabis jobs.

- 100 individuals will enroll in the training program
- 80 individuals will complete the training and obtain cannabis-related certificate/credential
- 70 will be placed in unsubsidized jobs within the cannabis industry

## Data

CanTrain Grantees will document demographics for their program participants, their activities, services received, and outcomes in Workforce One, DEED's a web-based client-management application. However, only those activities related to education, training, and employment are tracked in DEED's on-line data system. As of the date of this report, no data have been recorded.

Grantees are required to report participant demographic information, the number of participants enrolled in training, the number of participants earning a cannabis related certificate or credential, the number of participants obtaining employment, the average wage at job-placement, and the use of grant funds.

## Expenditures

Total amount available for grant awards was \$3,840,000, of which \$1,599,646 was awarded this grant cycle.