MN HOUSE RESEARCH

Economic Development, Employment, and Labor Acronyms and Nicknames

October 2026

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

Acronym	Definition	Citation/Reference	Description
21st Century Fund	Minnesota 21st 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.
AWAIR	A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction Program	State: § 182.653, subd. 8	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 Grant 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 who 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 DLI 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	https://www.ecfr.gov/	Federal rules and regulations.
CILs	Centers for Independent Living	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; workforce development; paid family medical leave; unemployment insurance; vocational rehabilitation; labor market information, analysis, and forecasting; business services; public infrastructure development initiatives; marketing and trade promotion; etc.

Acronym	Definition	Citation/Reference	Description
DLI	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.
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.
ESST	Earned Sick and Safe Time	State: §§ 177.50, 181.9445-181.9448	Requirement that employers provide employees with a certain amount of paid, job-protected leave for qualifying medical or family events.
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.

Acronym	Definition	Citation/Reference	Description
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.
IC	Independent Contractor	State: § 181.723, subd. 4; 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.

Acronym	Definition	Citation/Reference	Description
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 142G	State public assistance program for low-income persons.
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	greaterminnesota.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.
MNOSHA	Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Act	State: Chapter 182	Provides state-level occupational safety and health standards, investigations, and enforcement.
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System	census.gov/naics/	National industry classification system that assigns businesses a numerical code based on its primary business activity. Similar to SIC.
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 issues not covered under federal law.

Acronym	Definition	Citation/Reference	Description
OIC	Opportunities Industrialization Centers	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.
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.
PFML	Paid Family and Medical Leave	State: Chapter 268B	State program that offers employees paid, job-protected leave for qualifying medical or family events.
PW	Prevailing Wage	State: § 177.42, subd. 6	Provides for prevailing wage for public works projects using state money.
SAWW	State Average Weekly Wage	State: §§ 176.011. subd. 1b, 268.035, subd. 23	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/ STTR	Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer	sbir.gov/about	Competitive grant programs administered by the SBA to link small, high-tech, innovative businesses and the federal government's research and development efforts.

Acronym	Definition	Citation/Reference	Description
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification	osha.gov/data/sic-search	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.
SRRT	State Rapid Response Team	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.
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 the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Acronym	Definition	Citation/Reference	Description
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	uscode.house.gov/browse.html	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.
WDA	Workforce Development Area	State: § 116L.666	Designated by DEED to administer federal, state, and local employment and training services. A local work-force 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: Public Law 113-128 State: Chapter 116L	Location where federal, state, and local employment and training services are provided to job seekers and employers.

Acronym	Definition	Citation/Reference	Description
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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