



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Program Information

WORKFORCE SERVICES BRANCH

Funding Source and Allocation

Approximate funding for fiscal year 2000 was \$38 million in state funds and \$67 million in federal funds.

Outcomes

- Approximately 360,000 individuals were served in fiscal year 2000.
- These funds are a substantial resource for local WorkForce Centers to assist individuals and employers in meeting their employment and training needs.

Service Providers

Programs are delivered by WorkForce Centers, Community Action Agencies, Indian Reservation Governments, governmental units, and other private non-profit agencies.

Brief Description of Program

Twenty-six listed programs are described in more detail on separate pages:

Youth Intervention Program; Juvenile Justice Program; Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant; Minnesota Youth Program; Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Formula Grant Program; Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title IB Adult; Minnesota Youthbuild Program; Minnesota Youth Works/Americorps Program; Minnesota City Grants Program; Job Training Partnership Act - Title IIA; JTPA 8% Education Coordination; JTPA 5% Older Worker Program; Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP); Displaced Homemaker Program; MFIPS (Minnesota Family Investment Program Statewide); Food Stamp Employment and Training Program; Welfare to Work Program (WtW); Dislocated Worker Program; Dislocated Worker Rapid Response Program; Enterprise Zone Program; Opportunities Industrial Centers (OIC's); Job Service (Wagner Peyser); Veterans Services (LVER/DVOP); Trade Readjustment Act & NAFTA; Alien Labor Certification; Work Opportunities Tax Credit.

JTPA was replaced by Title I of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) effective July 1, 2000.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statute 268 and a number of Federal Laws.

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Program Information

DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The Dislocated Worker Program has federal funding of \$8.5 million and state funding of \$18.4 million in State Fiscal Year 2000.

Outcomes

In the year ending June 30, 2000:

- 14,345 clients received services.
- 5,928 were placed in employment out of 7,087 who completed program participation.
- The entered employment rate was 84 percent.
- The remaining 7,258 clients continued their participation beyond the end of the year.
- The average wage at placement was \$14.34 per hour.

Service Providers

Under federal law, 11 substate area grantees receive 60 percent of annual federal funds to deliver dislocated worker services statewide. The remaining 40 percent of federal funds are used for "rapid response" activities, and other specific activities serving workers affected by major plant closings or mass layoffs. Forty percent of the state dislocated worker funds are allocated to substate grantees and other service providers. The remaining funds are used to support special projects established to serve workers affected by plant closings or mass layoffs.

Brief Description of Program

The federal and state dislocated worker programs serve clients dislocated from long held jobs because of factors such as technological changes, investment decisions, and changes in consumption and competition. Services provided to clients fit into three broad categories: readjustment, retraining and supportive services. Readjustment services include: assessment, testing, job counseling, job development, and job search. Retraining services include: classroom, on the job, basic skills and literacy training. Supportive services may include assistance with paying health insurance, child care, transportation and other emergency needs.

In addition to reviewing and managing grants and monitoring the progress of local deliverers, the Dislocated Worker Program provides specific "early assistance" to dislocated workers which is called "Rapid Response" and occurs when 50 or more individuals are affected by a plant closing or mass layoff.

State legislation passed in the 1994 legislative session authorizes funding for Pilot Projects to serve individuals at risk of dislocation and to establish employer focused training programs. Up to five percent of the state dislocated worker fund can be used for these pilot projects. Twelve programs have been implemented with these pilot funds since inception.

NOTE: On July 1, 2000, both the State and Federal Dislocated Worker Programs were transferred to the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes 268.022, 268.975-98, Public Law 100-418 Stat., 1107.

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Program Information

DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM RAPID RESPONSE

Funding Source

Rapid response activities are part of the state's Dislocated Worker Program budgets that receive about 40 percent of the federal and state funds.

Outcomes for Program Year Ending 2000

For the period July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000 the program outcomes are:

- 102 Reported Dislocation Events
- 13,653 Workers Affected
- 35 Projects Funded
- 41 WARN Letters Received

Service Providers/Grantees

Rapid response activities lead to the selection of a service provider by the Employee Management Committee. Eligible service providers include the 11 Substate Area Grantees and the 10 certified service providers.

Brief Description of Program

The Rapid Response activities are triggered by a notification of a plant closing or large layoff. The Rapid Response Team conducts an investigation that begins with verifying the initial information and meeting with the company and union officials (if workforce is represented) to arrange appropriate services delivery. The Rapid Response Team conducts group information meeting(s) where the affected workforce learn about the Dislocated Worker Program services, complete a needs assessment survey and learn about the service delivery time line. The Rapid Response Team recruits volunteers for the Employee Management Committee. The Rapid Response Team educates the volunteers on their roles and facilitates the decision making process including the selection of a grantee/service provider. The Rapid Response Team facilitates the service delivery planning process. The planning starts with the services that can be provided at the company's location immediately and the long term services delivery plan that becomes part of the grant proposal submitted to the state for funding. The Rapid Response function includes coordinating other resources such as Unemployment Insurance benefits, Trade Adjustment Assistance, NAFTA-trade Adjustment Assistance.

NOTE: On July 1, 2000 this program was transferred to the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development.

Statutory Authority: Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Section 134(a)(2). The 1988 Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act amendments to JTPA require a state level rapid response capability. The new legislation, Workforce Investment Act (WIA), emphasizes rapid response to ensure early intervention services for affected workers.

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ENTERPRISE ZONE JOB CREATION INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

Minnesota law authorizes the payment of Incentive Grants to businesses to promote employment in Enterprise Zones within the cities of Minneapolis, and Saint Paul. During program year 2000, (July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000) a total of \$550,000 was allocated for this purpose.

Outcomes

For the period July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000, 32 businesses within Enterprise Zones in the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul participated in the program. Of those participating, 104 zone residents were hired.

Service Providers

The cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis each have a contract to serve businesses within the designated Enterprise Zones.

Brief Description of the Program

The Enterprise Zone Job Creation Incentive Grant program provides incentives to businesses for the creation of new jobs within Enterprise Zones. Participating businesses recruit, hire, train and retain zone residents for jobs located within the zones. Businesses receive 20 percent of wages paid, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Financial incentives are paid after these new hires complete one year of employment.

The City of Minneapolis is using the program to provide living wage employment opportunities for city residents and to encourage industrial development in those areas of the city that are adjacent to low income neighborhoods.

The City of Saint Paul coordinates the program with community organizations and businesses in Enterprise Zone areas. Various support services are offered to help businesses retain the new employees.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes 469.301-308

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Program Information

FOOD STAMP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM (FSET)

Funding Source and Allocation

The Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) program administered through the Department of Human Services has a state appropriation of \$1,426,000 for program year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001. An additional \$250,000 is state appropriated for Start Work Grants to assist individuals who obtain employment with the necessary support services. Additional program funds are available through the Department of Agriculture's Food Stamp Employment and Training Program (FSET) for participants who receive Food Stamps.

Outcomes

The Food Stamp Employment and Training Program targets food stamp recipients who do not receive other cash assistance. During program year July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000, the following outcomes were achieved:

- 6,970 individuals received employment and training services.
- of those who participated, 5,434 left the program during the year.
- of those who left the program, 2,255 entered employment (41.5 percent).
- the average wage at placement was \$7.74 per hour.

Service Providers

Food Stamp Employment and Training services are delivered statewide by counties, usually through service providers such as WorkForce Centers, Job Training Partnership Act providers, community action agencies and county employment and training providers.

Brief Description of Program

The Food Stamp Employment and Training Program is jointly administered by the Departments of Economic Security and Human Services. The program targets adults between ages 18 and 55 in each non-public-assistance food stamp household. Participants in FSET receive monthly food stamp allotments through county human service agencies in return for complying with work requirements. Food Stamp Employment and Training services provide participants with an assessment of work-related barriers, employability status and reading comprehension level. Employability Development Plans are developed for each individual to systematically reduce barriers to employment. Individuals whose reading comprehension skills are below the 8th grade reading level are provided basic educational opportunities including preparation for a GED, English as a Second Language and/or high school completion. In addition, all participants are provided with job-seeking and retention skills training and other activities designed to lead to self-sufficiency. Participation is required in each month that recipients receive food stamps.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes, 256D.051.

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Program Information

FOREIGN LABOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The Minnesota Foreign Labor Certification Program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). For the 2000 federal fiscal year (FFY) covering the period October 1, 1999 through September 30, 2000, the funding level was \$123,000.

Outcomes

In the 2000 federal fiscal year the Foreign Labor Certification Program processed 856 applications for Foreign Employment Certification and issued 1,671 prevailing wage determinations for employers.

Service Providers

The Foreign Labor Certification Program is delivered by the Labor Certification Unit of the Minnesota Department of Economic Security (MDES).

Brief Description of Program

The Foreign Labor Certification Program serves employers who wish to hire foreign workers on a permanent and temporary basis. Federal Immigration laws and regulations allow an employer to hire a foreign worker only if the USDOL certifies that there are no qualified U.S. workers available and willing to accept the job.

To meet the requirements of the law, employers are required to offer the prevailing wage for the job and attempt to recruit U.S. workers. The MDES Labor Certification Unit reviews the employer recruitment process before their cases are submitted to the USDOL Regional Certifying Office in Chicago for a determination. MDES advises employers of any unduly restrictive job requirements, determines the prevailing wage for the particular job opportunities, and may supervise recruitment to ensure that employers make a good faith effort to search for and hire qualified, available U.S. workers. If certification is approved, the employer then petitions the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to grant the authority to work permanently or temporarily in the U.S.

The primary objective of the Labor Certification Unit is to assist employers to adequately test the labor market to ensure that interested and qualified U.S. workers are considered for the job opportunities offered to foreign workers, and to ensure that foreign workers are not employed under conditions adversely affecting the wages and working conditions of U.S. workers in similar jobs.

Statutory Authority: U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq; Immigration Act of 1990, Public Law 101-649; 20 Code of Federal Regulations Part 656.

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JOB SERVICE PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The Job Service is funded under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act. The 2000 allocation was approximately \$11,816,000.

Outcomes

Last year 150,500 individuals were actively registered with the Job Service and 133,500 received services in the form of counseling, job placement, referrals and testing. Minnesota employers listed 64,900 job orders, and the Job Service helped 30,600 people obtain employment.

Service Providers

Services are delivered through the network of WorkForce Center offices located throughout the state and the Internet. In addition, some offices assign staff to provide service on-site to students at State Technical Colleges.

Brief Description of Program

The Job Service functions as a labor exchange, offering employment opportunities on a no-fee basis to all Minnesotans and providing employers an effective method of recruitment to fill job openings. All jobs are listed on a computer system that is accessible from any computer with Internet access. Applicants can review the listings on self-service computers, or the search can be conducted by staff using the electronic matching capability of the on-line computer system.

Minnesota's Job Bank (MJB) is another service offered under the auspices of the Job Service Program. MJB is an electronic resume system available on the Internet and linked to the Department of Economic Security's home page. MJB allows job seekers to input their resumes into a nationwide database and allows employers and private employment agencies to access those resumes. Through this system, qualified employers can directly view an applicant's qualifications - education, skills, work history - in relationship to job openings. MJB is linked to the federal America's Job Bank so that employers and job seekers can expand their searches nationwide.

While job placement is a principal focus of Job Service, other services are provided to support that end. Classes are available to job seekers that teach them how to look for work effectively. Employment counseling may be offered to individuals facing employment barriers. Referrals to training and supportive services are often coordinated with community-based agencies. Special efforts are made to place veterans, youth, seasonal migrant farm workers, and people with disabilities.

Statutory Authority: Wagner-Peyser Act as amended by Public Law 97-300; Minnesota Statutes, Section 268.14

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Program Information

JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT (JTPA) 5% OLDER WORKER PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The JTPA Title IIA 5% Older Worker Program was federally funded at a level of \$430,000 for the period of July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

Outcomes

For the period July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000:

- 333 adults served.
- 157 adults were placed in unsubsidized employment (a total of 58 percent) at an average wage of \$8.60 per hour.

Service Providers

JTPA IIA 5% Older Worker funds are allocated through a formula process to the 16 Workforce Service Areas operating in Minnesota.

Brief Description of Program

To be eligible for program services one must be at least 55 years of age and economically disadvantaged. The intent of the Older Worker Program is to ensure the training and placement of older individuals in employment opportunities with private business concerns. The services that may be provided to participants are those contained in Section 204 of the Job Training Partnership Act. Examples of allowable activities include counseling, assessment, classroom training, on-the-job-training, job-seeking skills training, and job development and placement. Emphasis is placed on programs that demonstrate innovative approaches to meet employment and training needs. This may include full-time, part-time, job sharing and other alternative work schedules. Additional consideration is given to programs involving training for jobs in growth industries and jobs reflecting the use of new technological skills.

Note: The JTPA program was originally passed in October, 1982 and amended in September, 1992. It succeeded the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). On July 1, 2000 new federal legislation, Title I of the Workforce Investment Act, replaced JTPA.

Statutory Authority: Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), Title IIA, Public Law 102-367 Section 204.

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Program Information

JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT (JTPA) 8% EDUCATION COORDINATION

Funding Source and Allocation

The JTPA Title IIA 8% Education Coordination Program was funded at a level of \$790,000 for the period July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

Outcomes

For the period July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000:

- 545 individuals served.
- 139 had special needs.
- 448 individuals left the program.
- 240 individuals were placed in unsubsidized employment at an average wage of \$9.70 per hour.

Service Providers

Fifty percent of the funds available are allocated by formula through Workforce Service Areas. Thirty percent of the funds are allocated through the Request For Proposal (RFP) process. During the program year, four projects were funded. All projects were jointly submitted by the Private Industry/Workforce Council and a local education agency.

Brief Description of Program

Programs may be designed to: 1) address school-to-work transition services of demonstrated effectiveness that increase the rate of graduation from high school, or completion of the recognized equivalent; 2) provide literacy and lifelong learning opportunities and services of demonstrated effectiveness; and 3) provide a statewide coordinated approach, including model programs to train, place, and retain women in non-traditional employment.

These funds are jointly administered by the Minnesota Department of Economic Security and the Minnesota State College and University System. Funds available for this program may be used to provide education and training, including vocational education and related services, to participants.

NOTE: The JTPA program was originally passed in October, 1982 and amended in September, 1992. It succeeded the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). On July 1, 2000, new federal legislation, Title I of the Workforce Investment Act, replaced JTPA.

Statutory Authority: Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), Public Law 102-367 Section 123.

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Program Information

JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT (JTPA) TITLE II-A: TRAINING SERVICES FOR DISADVANTAGED ADULTS

Funding Source and Allocation

The JTPA Title II-A was funded, by the Federal government, at a level of \$8,600,000 for the Program Year 1999 (July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000). Of this amount, 77 percent or approximately \$6,600,000 was allocated by formula to local Workforce Service Areas governed by Local Workforce Councils. The remainder was set aside to serve targeted populations.

Outcomes

For the period July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000:

- 3,783 adults were served.
- 1,267 public assistance adults were served.
- 2,959 adults left the program.
- 2,023 were placed in unsubsidized employment (Entered Employment Rate of 69 percent).
- The average wage was \$9.71 per hour at placement.

Service Providers

Sixteen local Workforce Service Areas develop training plans specifying who will be served, what services will be provided and who will provide them.

Brief Description of Program

The program prepares adults facing serious barriers to employment for participation in the labor force by providing job training and other services resulting in increased employment and earnings. Among the services provided are: classroom training, on-the-job training, vocational and personal counseling, labor market information dissemination and assessment.

Note: The JTPA program was originally passed in October, 1982 and amended in September, 1992. It succeeded the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). On July 1, 2000 new federal legislation, Title I of the Workforce Investment Act, replaced JTPA.

Statutory Authority: Public Law 102-367; 29 USC 1501, et al.

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Program Information

JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY INCENTIVE BLOCK GRANT (JAIBG)

Funding Source and Allocation

In 1998, Congress appropriated \$250 million through the Justice Department for the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Program. Minnesota's allocation for the year 2000 is \$4.1 million. Fifty-four Minnesota counties, cities, or partnerships accepted JAIBG entitlement grants in 1999.

Outcomes

Federal law requires that any jurisdiction receiving JAIBG funds must:

- Choose the Program Purpose Areas for funding.
- Establish a Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition (JCEC). This can be an existing group if it includes the required membership.
- Develop a Local Coordinated Enforcement Plan for reducing juvenile crime.
- Certify that they will be responsible for providing matching funds required to secure their allocation (match equals 10 percent of the total program cost).

Brief Description of Program

The intent of this program is to reduce juvenile crime by encouraging accountability-based reforms at the state and local level. In addition, funds may also be used within the juvenile system to help reduce backlogs by hiring additional prosecutors and/or judges, improve computer systems to help track and monitor youth in the juvenile justice system, and other options to help streamline services. These funds cannot supplant existing funding at the local level.

Allocations are calculated based on a formula that includes the relative share of Part I (serious) crimes in a jurisdiction and expenditures for law enforcement, judiciary and corrections activities within that jurisdiction over a three year period. Program Purpose Areas include accountability based sanctions for juvenile offenders; funding for prosecutors, courts, and probation officers; training; equipment; and information sharing programs.

Statutory Authority: Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999, Public Law 106-113

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Program Information

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

Minnesota received \$1.9 million of federal juvenile justice funds in 1999. Funding decisions are made by the Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC), a supervisory board appointed by the Governor, pursuant to federal law:

- \$1.5 million in Title II Formula Grant funds to 48 programs for services to at-risk and delinquent youth.
- \$300,000 for 10 Community Delinquency Programs under Title V.
- \$150,000 to five State Challenge Grant programs that targeted adolescent females and provided aftercare services with an employment and training component.

Outcomes

Statewide, over 18,000 youth and their families received services in 1999:

- Title II Formula Grant programs served nearly 8,000 youth.
- Title V service providers served over 10,000 youth and families in 10 communities.
- State Challenge Grants served over 400 youth.

Service Providers

Services are provided by community-based organizations, local educational agencies, units of local government and Indian reservations, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, community correction agencies, and state agencies.

Brief Description of Program

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee funds programs that provide prevention, early intervention, diversion, post-adjudication and aftercare services to at-risk youth and/or juvenile offenders and their families. Examples of services include:

- gender specific programming for young women.
- culturally specific community service opportunities for youth.
- restorative justice programs for juvenile offenders and their victims.
- aftercare services including an employment and training component that links offenders to their communities.
- mentoring programs for at-risk youth.
- programs emphasizing strong parental involvement.

Statutory Authority: The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, Public Law 102-586 as amended, 42 United States Code 5601 et seq.

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Program Information

MINNESOTA CITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The Minnesota City Grants program is funded at \$500,000 each year of the biennium in 1999-2001. The cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth have leveraged local resources in addition to over \$1 million in federal funding in the last four years. Ninety-five cents of each program dollar goes directly to activities.

Outcomes

In Minneapolis:

- The Minneapolis Curfew and Truancy Center served over 1,300 youth for curfew violations in 1999 and another 1,200 truant youth in the same year. Services include assessment and intervention for youth brought to the center as well as referrals. Cost per participant (to date): \$81.

In Duluth:

- Over 2,500 youth were detained through the Juvenile Alcohol and Curfew Offender Program for offenses such as curfew violation and underage tobacco and alcohol consumption during 1999. This effort has led to an overall decrease of 15 percent in crimes committed by juveniles. Local law enforcement agencies collaborate with community-based providers to provide on-going referrals and services. Cost per participant (to date): \$51.

In St. Paul:

- In 1999, over 1,100 students were cited for truancy in St. Paul and suburban Ramsey County. Over 1,300 youth were detained for curfew violations in St. Paul and suburban Ramsey County during 1999. The Ramsey County Truancy and Curfew Center indicates a substantial number of youth cited have had previous contact with police and nearly one in five are identified as having a gang affiliation. Youth are referred for counseling or other services as appropriate. Cost per participant (to date): \$142.

Service Providers

- City of Minneapolis
- City of St. Paul, Ramsey County and several law enforcement agencies, schools and community-based providers in Ramsey County
- City of Duluth

Brief Description of the Program

The Minnesota City Grants Program provides services to at-risk youth between the ages of 8 and 21. Curfew enforcement, assessments and referrals, truancy reduction programs, and pretrial diversion programs were eligible for funding under the 1999-2000 Minnesota City Grants Program. Activities funded through the Minnesota City Grants Program must have clearly established neighborhood, community and family measures of success.

Statutory Authority: Laws of Minnesota, 1999, Chapter 216, Article I, Section 20.

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Program Information

MINNESOTA DISPLACED HOMEMAKER PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The State of Minnesota provided \$1,822,000 from the general fund for the Displaced Homemaker Program for program year July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000. On July 1, 2000 the program's funding source was changed to the Workforce Development Fund.

Outcomes

In program year July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000, approximately 1,660 displaced homemakers were served. Over 75 percent of those served have a positive outcome, including:

- Forty percent employed at an average wage of \$8.90 an hour.
- Ten percent began job training or education.
- Thirty-three percent implemented plans that would move them toward financial independence.

Service Providers

The 12 Minnesota Displaced Homemaker programs are delivered through five non-profit corporations, five community action agencies, and two community colleges.

Brief Description of Program

The Displaced Homemaker Program is in its twenty-second year in Minnesota. Funded originally as a pilot program in one rural and one urban setting, the program has expanded over the years to 12 programs that cover all of Minnesota's 87 counties.

The program provides the transitional services and vocational preparation needed to assist displaced homemakers in moving to training or employment. A displaced homemaker is defined as a person who worked in the home for a minimum of two years caring for home and family, but due to separation, divorce, death or disability of spouse, or other loss of financial support, must support self and family. Eligibility is based on income guidelines. Enrollment is limited to one year and is free to those eligible.

Workshops, groups for personal and employment support and networking, self-esteem building, one-to-one personal or vocational counseling, job seeking methods, leadership development, decision-making skills and assistance with developing an action plan are among the resources used to help participants build confidence, identify skills, and seek training or employment. Other services may include referral for remedial education, child care, legal assistance, and other support services. Transportation, child care, and work or school expenses are covered as funds are available.

In 2000 the program received \$127,000 to be used for training for displaced homemakers. Funds will be used for expenses directly related to skill development or items that will directly affect obtaining or retaining a job (i.e., tuition, books, drivers license, etc.). The need for training will be outlined in each individual's Employment Services Plan and employment at the completion of training is expected.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes 268.96.

For More Information on the Displaced Homemaker Program, Contact:

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651-296-6060
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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Program Information

MINNESOTA YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The Youthbuild Program was funded by the state at a level of \$751,000 for 2000 and \$751,000 for 2001. The funding supports 12 programs. An additional \$200,000 has been allocated for the 2000-2001 biennium to support three programs that focus on computer and technical training and \$200,000 in one time funding has been allocated to Youthbuild agencies that were impacted by a loss of federal Youth Build funding. State appropriations enabled Youthbuild agencies to leverage over \$4 million in federal Youthbuild funding in the past five years.

Outcomes

For the period January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000 the Minnesota Youthbuild Program:

- served 387 youth: 100 percent are at risk of dropping out of school, 63 percent are juvenile offenders, 95 percent are economically disadvantaged, 61 percent are people of color.
- 72 percent of participants successfully completed the program;
- 85 percent of those who completed the program obtained their high school diploma or GED and 35 percent enrolled in post secondary institutions;
- 33 percent entered the building trades, and 70 percent entered employment with a starting wage averaging \$9.00 an hour;
- approximately 350 homeless and low income individuals and families were positively impacted by this program and approximately 95 units of affordable housing were constructed or renovated last year.

Service Providers

Twelve organizations currently participate in the Minnesota Youthbuild Program: Bi-County Community Action Programs, Inc. (Bemidji), The City, Inc. (Minneapolis), Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative (Chaska), Summit Academy OIC (Minneapolis), Rural Minnesota CEP (Detroit Lakes), City Academy (St. Paul), Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency Inc. (Virginia), Central MN Jobs and Training Services (Monticello), Guadalupe Alternative Programs (St. Paul), Stearns-Benton Employment and Training Council (St. Cloud), Project for Pride in Living (Minneapolis), and Southeastern Minnesota Private Industry Council (Rochester).

Brief Description of Program

The Youthbuild Program provides specialized training in construction and the building trades fields, computer technician fields, leadership and basic academic skills, and construction - based work experience for youth at risk of not completing their high school education. Youth must be between the ages of 16 and 24. Target groups include high school dropouts and potential dropouts, youth at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system, chemically dependent and disabled youth, homeless youth, teen parents, and public assistance recipients.

A unique requirement of the program design is that the work projects must result in the expansion or improvement of residential units for homeless persons and low income families or social service, educational, or health facilities that primarily serve these populations.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes, Sections 268.361 to 268.367.

For More Information on Youthbuild Programs, Contact:

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Program Information

MINNESOTA YOUTH PROGRAM (MYP)

Funding Source and Allocation

For Program year 2000 (July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001) MYP was funded by the state at a level of \$6.8 million (\$6 million base and \$840,000 in supplemental funds).

Outcomes

Projections for the period July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001:

- Over 5,800 participants will be served statewide in community-based projects.
- Over 5,000 eligible youth will remain on the waiting list for services.
- Ninety-four percent of youth served in the City of Minneapolis will be from communities of color; ninety-three percent in Saint Paul.
- Approximately 1,000 youth from St. Paul and Minneapolis will increase or maintain their reading and math skills.
- 100 percent of participating youth will return to school in the fall.

Service Providers

The Minnesota Youth Program is delivered through the Workforce Service Areas (WSA).

Brief Description of Program

The MYP provides services year-round to economically disadvantaged or at-risk youth between the ages of 14 and 21 and is available in all 87 counties. The education, skill training, and support service needs of each youth are assessed and used as the basis for designing individualized service strategies. Youth are involved in projects that focus on community service and address unmet human service, public safety, environmental and educational needs.

An array of services such as academic enrichment and basic skills training, private sector limited internships, work-based learning, youth service corps experiences, personal counseling, drug awareness training, vocational counseling, life skills training, mentoring, peer support groups, and tutoring services are available to participants on an as-needed basis. Support services such as transportation and child care are also available.

The education component of the program focuses on problem-solving skills. Participants in academic enrichment classes learn first-hand the importance of success in the classroom and success in the workplace. With encouragement and support from supervisors and staff, youth also learn the importance of building a strong work ethic and participating as a part of a team.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes, Sections 268.56 to 268.561.

For More Information on Youth Employment and Training Programs, Contact:

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
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Program Information

MINNESOTA YOUTH WORKS/AMERICORPS PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The Youth Works/AmeriCorps Program operated by the Minnesota Department of Economic Security is funded at \$162,495 under the Minnesota Youth Works Act, \$584,998 from Federal AmeriCorps funds and \$232,280 for Member Education Awards from the Corporation for National Service. The funds are awarded by the Minnesota Commission on National and Community Service and the Corporation for National Service. This initiative is in its seventh year of operation.

Outcomes

This program served 99 youth in program year September 1, 1999 to August 30, 2000.

Service Providers

The Statewide Youth Works /AmeriCorps Program is delivered by five Workforce Service Areas (WSA), in coordination with programs funded under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Minnesota Youth Program which provide year-round services to economically disadvantaged, at-risk youth. The organizations participating in the program are: Central MN Jobs and Training Services, Carver/Scott Educational Coop., Loring Nicollet Community Centers of Minneapolis, Dakota County, and Inter-County Community Council.

Brief Description of Program

Members in the Youth Works/AmeriCorps program include economically disadvantaged and/or at risk youth (ages 17-24) who perform a wide variety of community service activities such as: providing early childhood development services in pre-school programs such as Head Start; tutoring services in schools; mentoring and recreation program services in after-school and summer recreation programs; and improving and maintaining community, county and state parks to provide a safe environment for individuals using park facilities.

Members improve basic and occupational skills, leadership skills and citizenship skills. Members who have not completed their high school diplomas will do so and all members will develop career and/or post secondary training plans. Members completing a full-time term of service receive education benefits of \$4,725, members completing a part-time term of service receive education benefits of \$2,363 and members completing a reduced part-time term of service receive education benefits of \$1,000. These awards may be applied towards the cost of attending post secondary schools, payment of student loans, or cost of apprenticeship programs.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes, Sections 121.70 through 121.710, National and Community Service Trust Act of 1995, Public Law 103-82.

For More Information on Statewide Youth Works Program, Contact:

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Program Information

OLDER AMERICANS ACT SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP)

Funding Source and Allocation

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) was authorized at 292 job slots with an unsubsidized placement goal of 20 percent at a federal funding level of \$2,084,003 for the period of July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

Outcomes

For the period July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000 the program outcomes are:

- 405 adults served.
- 149 adults left the program.
- 78 adults placed in unsubsidized employment.

Service Providers

The SCSEP operations are subgranted to local providers. Contracts for program operations have been executed with 15 local agencies serving 60 counties throughout the state. Service providers include five Workforce Service Areas, five community action agencies, three counties, two national sponsors and one native American tribe.

Brief Description of Program

SCSEP fosters and promotes useful part-time opportunities in community service activities for persons who are at least 55 years of age with an income of less than 125 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines. SCSEP participants may work in part-time jobs at senior citizen and day care centers, schools, hospitals, programs for persons with disabilities, fire prevention programs, and beautification, conservation, and restoration projects. They must be paid no less than the federal or state minimum wage or the local prevailing rate for similar employment, whichever is higher. They receive annual physical examinations, personal and job-related counseling, job training if necessary, and in some cases, placement into regular unsubsidized jobs. Participants may work up to 1,300 hours per year and average 20-25 hours per week. There is no time limit on duration of enrollment.

Statutory Authority: Title V of the Federal Older Americans Act of 1965, Public Law 89-73 as amended by the Comprehensive Older Americans Amendments of 1978.

For More Information on Senior Community Service Employment Programs, Contact:

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Program Information

OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTERS (OICs)

Funding Source and Allocation

The Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OICs) received \$525,000 for their yearly basic program grant and \$250,000 from the state general fund for Asian and Hispanic outreach and training programs in Program Years 2000 and 2001. State funding provides base level financial support to compliment local public-sector and Federal Job Training funding. The total state support provides about fifteen percent of total funding for OICs.

Outcomes

For the period July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000:

- 628 Individuals served (131 percent of goal).
- 556 Individuals completed employability skills training (144 percent of goal).
- 228 Individuals obtained job placement (83 percent of goal).
- 235 Other positive terminations (126 percent of goal).
- 93 percent Minorities enrolled.
- 46 percent Welfare recipients enrolled.

Service Providers

OICs operate in: Minneapolis - Summit Academy OIC and American Indian OIC; St. Paul - East Metro OIC; Mille Lacs Indian Reservation - Anishinabe OIC; and Bemidji - Northwest Indian OIC.

The OIC State Council is the administrator of state funds to the OIC programs, coordinates all state level activities, provides technical assistance and resource development, and develops new OICs.

Brief Description of Program

OICs are local community-based centers that provide specialized employment and training services. OICs have proven to be successful in recruiting and serving those clients, often minority or welfare recipients, who never apply to or who drop out of more mainstream training programs. Comprehensive services include: outreach/recruitment; counseling; remedial education; motivational and pre-vocational training; skills training; job development and placement. Under other special projects, OIC centers also serve youth, welfare recipients, refugees and ex-offenders. The work of the OICs is to equip those who need jobs with the skills to do the work. Each local OIC offers instruction appropriate for the job specific skills needed by the local community served.

Statutory Authority: M.S. 268.011, Subd. 4, and 268.871, Subd. 2.

For More Information on Opportunities Industrialization Centers, Contact:

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Program Information

Statewide MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Program)

Funding Source and Allocation

Shared Federal and State funds of \$49.5 million have been allocated through the Department of Human Services for distribution to counties for program year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 to operate the employment services component of MFIP, Minnesota's welfare reform initiative.

Outcomes

From 7/1/99 to 6/30/00, approximate outcomes were:

- 49,500 MFIP recipients received services.
- 9,600 attended remedial and high school completion classes.
- 5,600 attended post-secondary education classes.
- 31,000 received job search services.
- 20,000 found full-time employment.
- 27,000 found part-time employment.
- 9,500 left the program due to income, at an average wage of over \$8.60 per hour.

Service Providers

MFIP operates in all 87 counties in Minnesota and on eleven Indian Reservations. Employment services providers vary throughout the state and include the Minnesota WorkForce Center partners, community action agencies, educational agencies, county agencies, and other non-profit entities. Counties are encouraged to establish linkages with existing community resources.

Brief Description of Program

Minnesota's welfare reform program, MFIP, is jointly administered by the Departments of Economic Security and Human Services. MFIP combines four programs, simplifying and streamlining program administration. The program's focus is to move families on a path to unsubsidized employment. For most recipients, participation in this program is mandatory and benefits are limited to 60 months in a lifetime. Various employment-related and support services are available to help recipients become self sufficient.

All recipients receive an assessment and a job search support/employment plan which outlines mutually agreeable steps necessary to become self sufficient. The program expects participants to take responsibility for supporting their families within time limits or their benefits will be reduced. Participants are always better off working due to financial incentives; they remain eligible for an incentive until they earn up to 120 percent of the poverty level. Child care and medical services are also available to help participants transition off welfare, into work.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota State Statute 256J.49 to 256J.73; Public Law 104-193.

For More Information on MFIP, Contact:

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Program Information

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE (TAA) PROGRAM NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE ACT (NAFTA) TRADE ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The funding source for Trade Adjustment Assistance(TAA) and the North American Free Trade Act (NAFTA) Trade Adjustment is the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. TAA/NAFTA spent about \$340,000 in TAA and about \$160,000 in NAFTA training funds for the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2000. This amount does not include \$1,056,000 paid out in Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) for weekly benefits.

Outcomes

During FFY 2000, workers eligible for TAA received the following services: 125 new claimants received basic Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA); 115 new recipients received additional TRA; and 75 entered training. There were eight employers whose employees were certified under the program during the fiscal year. Of the eight, five were also certified under TAA/NAFTA.

Service Providers

TAA/NAFTA services are provided through the statewide network of WorkForce Centers.

Brief Description of Program

The TAA program and the NAFTA-TAA programs are available to workers who lose their jobs as a result of increased imports. Both programs include several benefits and reemployment services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment.

Workers may be eligible for training, job search allowances, relocation allowances, and cash benefits called Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA). TRA may be paid to eligible workers following their exhaustion of unemployment insurance.

Statutory Authority: Federal Trade Act of 1974, (PL 93-618), as amended.

For More Information on the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program,

Contact:

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Program Information

VETERANS PROGRAM

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Funding Source and Allocation

The Minnesota Department of Economic Security's Veterans Program was funded by a federal grant of \$3,200,000 for the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2000. This is a two-program grant: About \$1,500,000 was for the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) and about \$1,700,000 was for the Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) program.

Outcomes

A total of 24,000 new and renewed applications were processed in Program Year 1999 ending June 30, 2000. Approximately 22,000 veterans received services, of which 7,800 were placed in jobs or obtained employment because of services received. This activity continues to exceed the expected standard established by the federal government.

Service Providers

Veterans services are provided through the statewide network of WorkForce Centers.

Brief Description of Program

In concert with the Job Service's role as a labor exchange, the Veterans Program assures that specialized employment and training services are provided to veterans. The basic services provided are job placement and job preparation. Many veterans receive counseling, testing or referral to other agencies that can provide additional services. These may include vocational rehabilitation, on-the-job training or classroom training necessary to make the veteran job-ready.

Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Representatives (DVOPs) serve a veteran population of approximately 430,000 in Minnesota. The largest group of veterans in the workforce are those who served during the Vietnam era. Specific goals for the placement of Vietnam era veterans are set by the Federal Veterans Employment and Training Service. While all WorkForce Center/Job Service staff have a responsibility to give priority of service to veterans, the LVER and DVOP representatives are dedicated to veterans' activity exclusively.

Statutory Authority: Public Law 100-323, Title 38, Chapter 41, United States Code 656.

For More Information on the Veterans Program, Contact:

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Program Information

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VICTIMS OF TORTURE

Funding Source - In 1997 the Minnesota State Legislature granted \$500,000 to the Center For Victims of Torture.

Required Match - \$500,000

Match to Date - \$685,081

End Date - 12-31-2000

Outcomes

There are five project goals that the Center focuses on. The most important of these is training human and health care system service providers. During the past three years the Center has conducted 142 training sessions and trained 3759 individuals. The Center has also developed a data base which tracks client information and generates statistical information.

Brief Description of Program

The Center for Victims of Torture is to establish a network of care providers to do pro bono care for torture survivors that will help victims integrate in to communities and labor market. Funding is used to design and develop training for educating health care and human services workers. Training will include levels of sensitive care and how to make referrals.

For More Information Contact:

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Program Information

WELFARE TO WORK PROGRAM (WtW)

Funding Source and Allocation

The Welfare to Work Program (WtW) funds are appropriated by the United States Department of Labor. The federal allocation for federal fiscal year 1999 (July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000) is \$13,537,096. The state is required to match these federal funds with non-secured state or private funds. Minnesota has appropriated \$5,000,000 in State funds to assist in meeting the match requirements of one state dollar for every two federal dollars expended.

Outcomes

The program's overall goal is to place hard-to-serve welfare recipients in long-term unsubsidized employment opportunities and help them stay employed. Performance measures include the percentage of placed participants who retain employment for greater than six months and the number of participants working more than 30 hours per week.

Service Providers

Local WorkForce Councils provide services in coordination with local elected officials to ensure the program works closely with the state's Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).

Brief Description of Program

The Welfare to Work Program is an employment program for hard-to-place MFIP recipients. To be eligible to participate in the Welfare to Work Program, recipients must have received assistance for the past 30 months, either consecutively or nonconsecutively, or be within 12 months of reaching the five year time limit or have exhausted benefits due to the five year time limit. Eligibility is also extended to certain non-custodial parents. Others may be served if they appear to be at-risk of long-term public assistance dependency, are a youth age 18-24 who was in foster care when under age 18, or are a custodial parent with income below the poverty line. A minimum of 70 percent of the state's allocation must be expended on long-term recipients or eligible non-custodial parents. As of October 2000, more than 5,000 participants have been enrolled in WtW. The new eligibility criteria described above took effect 10/1/00 and is anticipated to increase participation and improve program flexibility.

The program is designed to provide placement and post-placement services including support services, to enable participants to remain in long-term employment and promote individual and family self-sufficiency. Allowable activities include on-the-job training, wage supplementation, or community work experience. Post placement support services may include child care, temporary housing, transportation and mentoring programs designed to assist recipients through personal and employment related situations in their transition to work.

Statutory Authority: Section 5001 of the Budget Reconciliation Act of 1997

For More Information on Welfare to Work, Contact:

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Program Information

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) TITLE IB ADULT

Funding Source and Allocation

The WIA Title IB Adult was funded, by the Federal government, at a level of \$7,782,432 for the Program Year 2000 (July 1, 2000 – June 30, 2001). Of this amount, 85 percent or approximately \$6,615,067 was allocated by formula to local Workforce Service Areas governed by local Workforce Councils. The remaining 15% is reserved for 5% administration and 10% statewide activities.

Outcomes

Participants in the first quarter (For the period July 1, 2000 – September 30, 2000 (First Quarter):
Served: 1,503
Terminated: 387
Placed: 337

Service Providers

Sixteen local service Workforce Service Areas develop training plans specifying how services will be provided and who will provide them.

Brief Description of Program

Job seekers may receive a preliminary assessment of their skill levels, aptitudes, abilities, support service needs, job search, placement assistance, and career counseling. Individuals may also obtain information on a full array of employment-related services, including information about local education and training service providers, labor market information, job vacancies, and skills necessary for in-demand jobs.

Statutory Authority: Public Law 105-220

For More Information on WIA Programs Contact:

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Program Information

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) YOUTH FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The WIA Youth Formula Grant became effective in Minnesota on April 1, 2000. It is federally funded at a level of \$6,840,000 for Program Year 2000 (April 1, 2000 - March 31, 2001).

Outcomes

For the period April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001, an estimated 3,057 participants are projected to be served. Performance measures under WIA include the following:

For Youth Between the Ages of 14 and 18:

- Attainment of Basic Skills, Work Readiness and/or Occupational Skills.
- Attainment of Secondary School Diploma or Equivalent.
- Placement and Retention in Post-Secondary Education/Advanced Training, Military, Unsubsidized Employment or Qualified Apprenticeship.

For Youth Between the Ages of 19 and 21:

- Entry into Unsubsidized Employment
- Minimum Six Month Retention in Unsubsidized Employment.
- Six Month Earnings Received in Unsubsidized Employment.
- Attainment of Educational or Occupational Skills Credential by participants who enter unsubsidized employment; or by youth who enter post-secondary education, advanced training or unsubsidized employment.

Service Providers

The WIA Youth Formula Grant Program operates throughout the State of Minnesota through the 16 Workforce Service Areas (WSA)/Workforce Councils.

Brief Description of Program

This program provides year round and summer employment and training services to eligible youth. Local program operators determine the specific services a youth needs based on assessments and the youth's individual service strategy. Goals include helping youth achieve academic and employment success by providing services that improve educational and skill competencies, preparing youth for success in the workplace, providing supportive services as needed, and providing leadership skills to help youth develop their full potential as citizens and leaders.

To participate in the program, youth must be between the ages of 14 and 21, economically disadvantaged, and be one or more of the following: basic skills deficient, pregnant or parenting, homeless, a runaway, foster child, or a youth who needs additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment.

The WIA Youth Formula Grant requires a minimum of 10 program elements that must be available through the local Workforce Service Area or its program operators that include work experience, academic enrichment and followup.

Statutory Authority: The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-220)

For More Information on the WIA Youth Formula Grant Program, Contact:

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
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Program Information

WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT (WOTC) PROGRAM

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Funding Source and Allocation

WOTC is funded through the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. Federal funding for the Federal Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2000 was \$348,000.

Outcomes

The WOTC program was established by Congress in 1996. The program began on October 1, 1996. Since the program's inception, Job Service has processed over 38,000 tax credit applications from employers. WOTC certifications worth a potential \$45,500,000 in tax savings have been issued by the Job Service to employers from October 1, 1996 through October 31, 2000.

Service Providers

Job Service is responsible for determining an individual's eligibility as a member of a targeted group and providing certifications to employers. Job Service has some non-financial agreements with public agencies to allow them to conditionally certify their clients. The Internal Revenue Service is responsible for allowing receipt of the tax credits.

Brief Description of Program

The WOTC program provides employers with federal tax credits as an incentive for hiring members of targeted groups who traditionally have difficulty finding jobs. Job Service determines the eligibility of targeted workers and gives certifications to employers, who may then receive tax credits.

The full tax credit is 40 percent of up to \$6,000 paid out in wages during the first twelve months of employment for new hires who work at least 400 hours. The maximum tax credit for each individual hired is \$2,400. For new hires who leave before they have worked 400 hours, a partial credit is available. If a new hire works at least 120 hours, but less than 400 hours, the employer may take a partial credit of 25 percent of up to \$6,000 paid out in wages. The tax credit for the summer youth target group is limited to the first \$3,000 in wages. Unused portions of the credit may be carried back three years and forward 15 years.

The targeted groups are: recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), veterans who received Food Stamps for at least three out of the last 15 months, economically disadvantaged ex-felons hired no later than one year after conviction or release from prison, vocational rehabilitation referrals, summer youth ages 16 through 17 who reside in an Empowerment Zone or an Enterprise Community, individuals aged 18-25 who reside in an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community, individuals aged 18-25 who have received food stamps for at least three months within the last five months, and persons who have received Supplemental Security (SSI) benefits for at least one month within 60 days of their date of hire.

Statutory Authority: Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-188)

For More Information on the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program, Contact:

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Program Information

YOUTH INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The Youth Intervention Program is funded at \$1,425,000 per year. All programs must obtain at least two local dollars for each state dollar received.

Outcomes

For the period January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000 Youth Intervention Programs:

- served over 19,400 Minnesota youth and their families;
- over 2,700 youth performed nearly 40,000 hours of community service, paying restitution of over \$100,000;
- reduced the number of runaways;
- reduced the number of youth involved with the juvenile justice system; and
- 92 percent of participants successfully completed their program.

Service Providers

Forty-eight community-based programs provide a wide array of services to youth ages 4 through 17. Twenty-six programs operate within the metropolitan area and 22 provide services in Greater Minnesota. Ten new programs began operation on January 1, 2000.

Brief Description of Program

Youth Intervention Programs provide counseling, education, prevention and referral services to youth who are at risk of child abuse, family violence, chemical abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, prostitution, truancy and running away from home. The programs work with the entire family and address such issues as shoplifting, vandalism, theft, prostitution, and arson. Youth Intervention Program providers collaborate with the schools, the juvenile justice system and other community agencies to identify and serve youth in need of assistance.

Examples of programs include:

- diversion, restitution and community service programs that hold youth accountable for delinquent behavior;
- restorative justice programs that provide an opportunity for youth to repair harm that has been caused by their behavior;
- truancy and school suspension programs that provide intensive supervision to youth who are chronically truant or who are suspended from school;
- awareness classes in theft, chemical abuse, arson, vandalism, and tobacco use;
- peer counseling, mentoring and tutoring programs to provide positive support and role modeling;
- support groups that address teen parenting, anger management, conflict resolution, self-esteem, chemical abuse and dependency;
- after-school programs that provide positive, structured activities for at-risk youth.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes, Sections 268.30.

For More Information on Youth Intervention Programs, Contact:

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390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
651-296-6064, 651-297-2767 or toll free at 1-800-456-8519
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Program Information

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) PROGRAMS

Funding Source and Allocation

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program is funded by two taxes paid by employers. The state tax is used to pay benefits to individuals who are program eligible. The federal tax is used to pay administrative costs of the program. Minnesota will receive approximately \$36 million in administrative funding in fiscal year 2001.

Outcomes

In fiscal year 2000 there were 130,000 accounts established for unemployed workers in Minnesota. Minnesota workers living in other states established over 6,600 accounts. There were 1.43 million weeks paid with an average weekly amount of \$274. Benefits paid totaled \$391 million. In addition 31,000 determinations were issued in regard to applicant eligibility for benefits and employer charges. Unemployment Insurance judges, through a due process procedure, heard and decided 12,500 appeals from employers and applicants. Approximately 100 cases are appealed to the Minnesota Court of Appeals each year. In 2000 there were 1,998 unemployment cases found fraudulent which totaled \$3.1 million. The total amount collected on all outstanding fraud overpayments was \$2.2 million. The fraud recovery rate is 70.4 percent on all fraudulent overpayment balances. Unemployment services were provided to assist those permanently separated from employment. 14,390 applicants received employability and work search plans and job search skills training. The tax section established 14,000 new employer accounts, conducted 2,801 employer audits, and collected \$369 million in taxes from 128,000 Minnesota employers subject to the UI tax.

Service Providers

The Unemployment Insurance program is administered through the Minnesota Department of Economic Security's headquarters in St. Paul and a network of Benefit Call Centers. Unemployment services are delivered through the Minnesota WorkForce Center System.

Brief Description of Program

The Unemployment Insurance program maintains a stable workforce by serving employers and their employees who are unemployed through no fault of their own, providing Unemployment Insurance up to 50 percent of their average weekly wage to a state maximum. To establish an account applicants must have a work history and meet the test of wages in two quarters of the base period. To receive benefits applicants must be able, available, and actively seeking work. Over 70 percent of Minnesota applicants find work before exhausting benefits.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes 268.001 to 268.23

For More Information on Unemployment Insurance Programs, Contact:

Chuck Hartfiel

Minnesota Department of Economic Security/WorkForce Wage Assistance Branch

390 N. Robert St.

St. Paul, MN 55101

651-296-6520

E-mail: chartfie@ngw.state.mn.us

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Program Information

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The Disability Determination Program is 100 percent federally funded by the Social Security Administration. The level of funding for the 2001 Federal Fiscal Year (10/1/00 to 9/30/01) is unknown at this time, but is estimated at \$18,400,000.

Outcomes

From October 2000 through September 2001, the Disability Determination Section anticipates processing disability applications for approximately 39,000 people in Minnesota. Of that number, the agency will refer at least 1,800 eligible applicants to Vocational Rehabilitation.

Service Providers

Applications for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits and Supplemental Security Income benefits are filed at the local federal offices of the Social Security Administration, located throughout the state. The Disability Determination Services Program, as the name suggests, determines applicants' eligibility.

Brief Description of Program

In accordance with Social Security Administration regulations, the Disability Determination Services Program determines if Minnesotans claiming disability benefits meet the criteria for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Disability Determination Services also refers disability applicants who may benefit from vocational rehabilitation services to Vocational Rehabilitation Services and State Services for the Blind.

The goal of Disability Determination Services is to serve the public by minimizing the time taken to process applications through increased use of automation and ongoing work with the local SSA offices, while maintaining quality service. The program seeks to maintain a nationally enviable decision accuracy rate of 97.5 percent. Approximately 115,000 Minnesotans collect monthly disability benefits under SSDI and SSI.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes 268A.

For More Information on Disability Determination Services, Contact:

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Minnesota Department of Economic Security/WorkForce Wage Assistance Branch
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121 East Seventh Place
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
651-296-5179; 800-657-3558
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Program Information

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2001, funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is \$54,445,113. In addition, Minnesota also received a reallocation of FFY 99 funds, in the amount of \$19,683, a leveraging grant of \$266,546, and Energy Contingency funds for FFY2000 in the amount of \$22,587,832. These funds were carried forward to the FFY2001 Program. The total amount available for FFY 2001 is \$77,319,174.

Outcomes

In FFY 2000, 84,122 households received Energy Assistance grants. The average household grant was \$414. Additional help, in the form of crisis funds, was delivered to 12,802 of those households. Approximately 2,500 households received Energy Related Repair services, which provided them with emergency heating system repairs or replacements.

Service Providers

The department contracts with 40 local organizations to deliver Energy Assistance programs. These include 24 Community Action Agencies, eight county human services offices, seven reservations and one non-profit organization.

Brief Description

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides services that help income eligible households keep their homes heated through the winter. Households who are at or below 50% of the state medium income can receive a one-time grant, which is usually paid to their heating vendor. Grant size is based on the number of people in the household, gross household income, fuel type, and their fuel consumption from the previous winter. The households with the lowest incomes and highest bills receive the largest grants.

Because of the marked increase in energy costs, the average grant in FFY 2001 is expected to be \$475.

Households who are without heat because of a utility disconnection or in need of fuel delivery can receive additional help through the crisis program, which provides an additional \$300 as needed. The program also provides emergency heating system repair or replacement for homeowners who are in a no-heat situation.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes, Section 119A, Federal Title XXVI of Public Law 97-35, as amended. Minnesota Rules Chapter 3325.

For More Information on Energy Assistance Programs, Contact:

John Harvanko
Minnesota Department of Economic Security/ **Energy Programs**
390 North Robert
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
651-284-3275 or 1-800-657-3805
E-mail: jharvank@ngwmail.state.mn.us

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Program Information

REACH OUT FOR WARMTH

Funding Source and Allocation

This statewide fuel account was established in 1992 as a way to implement a system to raise additional emergency energy assistance funds. This fund was established to solicit contributions, manage receipts and distribute emergency energy funds to households at or below 60 percent of state median income who have exhausted all other resources and still have an energy emergency. The donated funds are matched with Federal Energy Assistance dollars up to \$200,000. All other money is locally raised.

Outcomes

In Federal Fiscal Year 2000, one thousand seventy households received Reach Out for Warmth grants. The maximum grant was \$500 which was used to pay heating fuel or electric charges. The average household grant was \$165 which was used to help with additional energy needs after the energy assistance grant and crisis assistance had been used. Additionally, the household could receive \$300 in furnace funds. One hundred and seventy-four households were assisted with repair funds.

Service Providers

The Department contracts with 40 local organizations to deliver the Energy Assistance Program. These agencies which include 24 Community Action Agencies, eight county human services offices, seven reservations and one non-profit organization which also raise and distribute the Reach Out for Warmth funds.

Brief Description of Program

The program provides services that help income eligible households keep their homes heated through the winter. Households who are at or below 60 percent of the state median income can receive a one time grant, which is usually paid to their heating or repair vendor.

Households who are without heat, because of a utility disconnection or in need of fuel delivery, can receive help through this program. The program also provides emergency heating system repair or replacement for homeowners who are in a no-heat situation.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes, Section 268.371 Sub.1-4.

For More Information on the Reach Out For Warmth Program, Contact:

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Minnesota Department of Economic Security/Energy Programs
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Program Information

WEATHERIZATION

Funding Source and Allocation

The Weatherization program has a mixture of federal and state funding. This program includes: Department of Energy Low Income Weatherization; Petroleum Violation Escrow Weatherization; and Oil and Propane Heating Assistance. Funding levels for State Program Year 2000 are as follows: Department of Energy Weatherization, \$5,852,382; Petroleum Violation Escrow Weatherization, \$755,049; Oil, \$588,000; Propane \$430,000.

Outcomes

The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Petroleum Violation Escrow (PVE) Weatherization programs provided assistance to over 2,600 housing units from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000. Based on average savings of 25 percent, these programs saved approximately 100 million BTU's of energy. The Oil and Propane programs were used primarily for mechanical system upgrades for homes using the corresponding type of fuel. Often these programs were used in conjunction with the regular Weatherization programs.

Service Providers

The program is administered locally by community action agencies, tribal governments, a housing authority and one local nonprofit organization.

Brief Description of the Program

The Weatherization programs provide energy conservation services to program eligible households. The programs help reduce the households energy expenditures and provides energy related health and safety improvements. These programs provide an energy audit to determine which cost effective and health and safety measures are to be installed. Conservation measures may include: installing exterior wall and attic insulation, sealing air leaks, increasing the efficiency of the heating and heat distribution system, safety improvements to the dwellings mechanical systems, and client education. To be eligible for assistance a household must be at or below 50 percent of the Minnesota median income. The program is administered locally by community action agencies, tribal governments, a housing authority and one local nonprofit organization.

Statutory Authority: Title III of the Energy Conservation and Production Act, 42 USC, 6561

For Further Information on the Weatherization, Contact:

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Program Information

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS PRODUCTS AND SERVICE FUNDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL)

Funding Sources and Allocation

Funding for the products and services for Federal Fiscal Year 2001 Program Year 2000 is \$2.3 million.

Outcomes

The Research and Statistics office of the Minnesota Department of Economic Security (MDES) collects, analyzes and disseminates employment and economic data on unemployment rates, non-farm employment, workforce characteristics, wages and occupations for the state, metropolitan statistical areas and counties. The data are produced regularly on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis and are made available to customers through print and electronic publications.

Service Providers

The products and services are provided by the Minnesota Department of Economic Security staff.

Brief Description of Program

In cooperation with DOL, MDES collects data on employment, wages and occupations through Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly and annual voluntary surveys. Data from these programs, in addition to the administrative statistics obtained from the employers' unemployment insurance tax reports are compiled, edited, and summarized. The final products of these surveys and programs are: distribution of covered employment and wages by area, type of ownership and industrial classification; monthly estimate of the number of non-farm jobs, hours and earnings data by industry for the state and metropolitan statistical areas; monthly estimates of employment and unemployment for the metropolitan areas, counties and cities with population of 25,000 or more; occupational employment and wages estimates for the state and metropolitan areas; and the number of major layoffs by industry and the characteristics of workers affected by the cutbacks.

Data from these various programs are analyzed and disseminated to a wide variety of customers such as businesses, job seekers, government entities, and the general public through its monthly, quarterly and annual publications. In addition to the print publications, the information is also provided to our customers through a Labor Market Information Help Line and an Internet site, www.MnWorkForceCenter.org/lmi

Statutory Authority: Title 29, United States Code, Section 2.

For More Information on These Products and Services, Contact:

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Program Information

MINNESOTA CAREER RESOURCE NETWORK (MCRN) (formerly MOICC)

Funding Source and Allocation

Federal funds are provided by the Office of Adult and Vocational Education at the U.S. Department of Education. Minnesota received approximately \$130,000 for Program Year 2000 to operate the Minnesota Career Resource Network (MCRN). Previously, MCRN was known as the Minnesota Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (MOICC) and was funded by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Outcomes

Primary objectives of MCRN are to coordinate activities across career information producers including strategic planning, content development, research, information dissemination, and training teachers, counselors and other intermediaries. MCRN provides support to the state's career information systems, products, and services. These include the Internet System for Employment and Education Knowledge (ISEEK), Minnesota Virtual University (MnVU), the Career Resource System (CRS), the Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS), and the publication *Minnesota Careers*.

MCRN is developing a customer feedback system for use by state offices and is engaged in developing career-related educational resources and training. Occupational video lending libraries were established with the Minnesota Department of Economic Security Employee Resources Center and the Department of Children, Families and Learning Library. The "Enter Here" videos feature over 200 twelve-minute, entry-level occupation segments. These videos are primarily loaned to high schools.

MCRN has established committees to explore opportunities to coordinate development, marketing and distribution of career information products; to explore the joint collection of educational provider data; and to advise the production of *Minnesota Careers*. Additional Technical Action Committees will be set up to address specific needs, including coordinating statewide efforts related to skill standards.

Brief Description of Program

MCRN is comprised of a staff serving an inter-agency board of state-level career information producers. It exists to identify unmet career information needs and to advocate solutions. MCRN serves Minnesota's learners, career explorers and employers by coordinating activities of its member agencies, leveraging their existing products and services, and making efficient use of their research and delivery capabilities.

Member agencies include: Departments of Children, Families & Learning, Corrections, Economic Security, Human Services, Labor and Industry and Trade and Economic Development; Governor's Workforce Development Council; Higher Education Services Office; Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and University of Minnesota.

Statutory Authority: Carl D. Perkins Vocational-Technical Education Act of 1998, Section 118

For More Information on MCRN, Contact:

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Program Information

REHABILITATION SERVICES BRANCH

Funding Source and Allocation

Approximate funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2000 is \$22.9 million in state and local funds and \$32.7 million in federal funds.

Outcomes

Programs of Rehabilitation Services served 38,441 individuals who have disabilities with a variety of services. The services include but are not limited to: vocational planning; employment information and referral service; and guidance in maintaining employment.

Service Providers

Services are delivered by 400 branch staff and 140 state certified community agencies through three major statewide programs.

Brief Description of Programs

- 1) The **Extended Employment Program** provides on-going employment support services to individuals in a variety of work settings including community rehabilitation program sites, community-based group sites, and community-based individual sites.
- 2) The **Independent Living Program** provides comprehensive services to people with severe disabilities to enhance their ability to live independently, function in their homes and with their families, and to participate in their communities.
- 3) The **Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program** provide basic vocational rehabilitation services to consumers including vocational counseling, planning, guidance and placement, as well as certain special services based on individual circumstances.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes 268A and the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended; and the Social Security Act.

For More Information on Rehabilitation Services Programs, Contact:

Howard Glad
Department of Economic Security/Rehabilitation Services Branch
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
651-296-5616 or 800-328-9095 TTY 651-296-3900
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Program Information

EXTENDED EMPLOYMENT (EE) PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

Extended Employment Programs are 100 percent state funded. Funding levels for State Fiscal Year 2001 are: Basic EE grants of \$ 11.110 million and operating costs of \$370,000; supported employment for persons with mental illness grants of \$750,000 and operating costs of \$77,000; supported employment for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing \$250,000; and a \$35,000 grant to Advocating Change Together (ACT) to provide self-advocacy training to persons with severe disabilities.

Outcomes

In 2000, the basic EE Program provided ongoing employment support services for 6,239 Minnesotans with severe disabilities: consumers worked 3.028 million hours in community support at an average salary of \$5.41 per hour and 2.621 million hours in center-based employment in community rehabilitation programs at an average salary of \$2.87 per hour. Over 423 persons with mental illness are working in supported employment through the Employability projects earning an average of \$7.03 per hour. Minnesota Employment Centers for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (MEC) provided supported employment to 65 persons who are deaf or hard of hearing earning with an average hourly wage of \$8.82.

Brief Description of Program

Extended Employment Programs provide ongoing employment support services to Minnesotans with severe disabilities or severe impairment to employment who require ongoing support to maintain or advance in employment:

- The basic EE program provides funding for supported and center-based employment to persons with severe disabilities through a statewide network of 30 community rehabilitation programs. Supported employment provides ongoing support for persons working in the larger community in a variety of employment settings. Center-based employment provides ongoing support for persons who work in manufacturing, service, and retail enterprises operated by the community rehabilitation program.
- Supported employment services are provided to persons with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI) who secure employment through Coordinated Employability Projects. These projects are a collaborative effort with the Mental Health Division of the Department of Human Services.
- Supported employment services are provided to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing through a grant to the MEC.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes Chapter 268A.13 - 268A.15

For Further Information on Extended Employment, Contact:

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Department of Economic Security/Rehabilitation Services Branch
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Program Information

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Funding Source and Allocation

The Independent Living Program was funded in FFY 2000 at approximately \$1,850,000 in state funds and \$1,179,602 in federal Department of Education funds.

Outcomes

Fiscal year 2000 results will be available late January 2001. During fiscal year 1999, 2,658 consumers received services provided by Independent Living Centers (see paragraph 1 below). In addition, 2,990 consumers received information and referral services. During the same period, 1,748 consumers received services provided through the RS/VR program (see paragraph 2 below).

The program results in consumer control, peer support, self-sufficiency, self-determination, equal access, and individual and systems advocacy in order to maximize leadership, empowerment, independence and productivity to attain integration and full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the mainstream of society.

Brief Description of Program

The activity provides comprehensive services to people with significant disabilities to enhance their ability to live independently, function in their homes and with their families, and to participate in their communities.

There are two components:

- 1) An Independent Living Center grant program that supports a network of eight community based, cross-disability, nonresidential, private, non-profit Centers for Independent Living designed, governed and operated by persons with disabilities. Center services include: individual and systems advocacy; independent living skills training; peer counseling; support groups; information and referral; assistance in obtaining transportation; equipment; personal assistance care; housing; education; recreation; health care; home and work modification; and counseling, regarding vocational planning or referral to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR).
- 2) The Independent Living Services program operated cooperatively through the RS/VR program to provide independent living services including counseling, service coordination and the purchase of equipment. RS/VR counselors are also liaison coordinators with the Centers for Independent Living and refer consumers to centers for additional assistance.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes Chapter 268A and Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended.

For Further Information on Independent Living programs or services, Contact:

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Program Information

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

Funding Source and Current Allocation

The Rehabilitation Services (RS) Branch of the Minnesota Department of Economic Security, Vocational Rehabilitation Program, is funded by the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and the State of Minnesota. The program requires a state match with additional maintenance-of-effort requirements. The Vocational Rehabilitation Program used \$8.5 million in state and local funds to match \$31.5 million in federal funds for fiscal year 2000.

Outcomes

During federal fiscal year 2000, 3,990 individuals were placed in employment and another 348 incumbent workers were helped to maintain employment. Forty-five percent of those served were receiving public assistance at the time they applied for Vocational Rehabilitation services.

During federal fiscal year 2000, the Vocational Rehabilitation Program developed 6,744 new vocational plans for people with disabilities. Ninety-eight percent of the individuals Vocational Rehabilitation who were served and placed in employment have severe disabilities.

Service Providers

Vocational rehabilitation services are delivered locally throughout Minnesota by 175 vocational rehabilitation counselors at 53 locations in Minnesota's WorkForce Centers.

Brief Description of Program

Basic vocational rehabilitation services to consumers include vocational counseling, planning, guidance and placement, as well as certain customized services based on individual circumstances. These may include academic or skill training, artificial appliances or prostheses, assistive technology and adaptations, and tools or equipment. All services are designed to result in placement in a suitable job.

To be eligible, a person must have a medically documented disability that significantly impacts his or her ability to obtain or continue employment, and must require vocational rehabilitation services to obtain or continue employment.

Due to the high demand for services and limited resources available, Vocational Rehabilitation Services is unable to serve all those who are eligible. Therefore, Vocational Rehabilitation Services has made the decision to implement a federal mandate that requires priority be given to persons with severe disabilities when resources are inadequate to serve all those eligible.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes 268A and the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended.

For More Information on Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Contact:

Paul M. Bridges
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Program Information

STATE SERVICES FOR THE BLIND (SSB) BRANCH

Funding Source and Allocation

Funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2000 was \$13,300,000 (includes one-time infusion of federal reallocated funds) which is composed of \$1,000,000 (eight percent) in non-public money, \$2,300,000 (17 percent) in state non-match funds and \$10,000,000 (75 percent) in federal and state match funds.

Outcomes

In 2000, State Services for the Blind programs served over 30,000 persons through the: Business Enterprises Program; Career and Independent Living Services; Communication Center; and THE STORE.

Services Providers

Programs are delivered by SSB staff, volunteers, private contractors and Community Rehabilitation Programs.

Brief Description of Program

Services are designed to make it possible for blind and visually impaired persons to achieve employment, personal and information access goals. Many individuals served had additional disabilities.

This and the accompanying documents reflect FFY 2000 funding, outcomes, and services. State Services for the Blind was restructured effective October 2000 and subsequent reporting will be aligned with that restructuring.

Statutory Authority Minnesota Statutes, Sections 248, 160.28, 273.13 subd. 22; Minnesota Rules, Chapter 3325; Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; Randolph-Sheppard Act (Public Laws 74-732, 83-565, 93-516); Pratt-Smoot Act (Public Law 89-522); Surface Transportation Act (Public Law 97-424); 34 Code of Federal Regulations parts 361, 365, 370, 395; 36 Code of Federal Regulations part 701-703.

For More Information on State Services for the Blind, Contact:

Bonnie Elsey
Minnesota Department of Economic Security/**State Services for the Blind**
390 N. Robert St.
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-296-1822 or 1-800-652-9000
E-Mail: belsey@ngwmail.des.state.mn.us

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Program Information

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

Funding Source and Allocation

The Federal Fiscal Year 2000 funding for the Business Enterprise Program was \$1,440,000, which is composed of \$720,000 (50 percent) in non-public funds and \$720,000 (50 percent) in federal and state-match funds.

Outcomes

A total of 62 legally blind vendors operated in excess of 200 locations across the state under a franchise agreement in 2000. Additional vendors were trained. Sales volume was \$9,100,000 (up four percent) for the year, and the average blind vendor net profit was \$36,000 (up 14 percent).

Service Providers

The Business Enterprise Program is delivered throughout the state by professional, technical and clerical staff who provide training, management assistance and technical support to legally blind vendors.

Brief Description of Program

The Business Enterprise Program helps blind persons enter into business for themselves by training them to operate small businesses and placing them in self-employment franchise opportunities on federal, state, county, city and private property. The small business opportunities include lunch rooms, snack bars, gift shops, vending machine sites, vending machine routes and vending machines on interstate and state highways.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes, Section 248; Minnesota Rules, Chapter 3321; 20 United States Code 107 *et. seq.*; 29 United States Code 701 *et. seq.*; 34 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 395.

For More Information on the Business Enterprise Program, Contact:

Chuk Hamilton
Minnesota Department of Economic Security/State Services for the Blind
2200 University Ave. W. #240
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Program Information

CAREER AND INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

Funding Source and Allocation

The Federal Fiscal Year 2000 funding for the Career and Independent Living Services Section was \$6,300,000 which is composed of \$1,400,000 (22 percent) in state non-match funds, and \$4,900,000 (78 percent) in federal and state-match funds.

Outcomes

In Federal Fiscal Year 2000, 4,923 blind and visually impaired customers were served with 196 achieving their vocational rehabilitation outcome (including homemakers) and 960 achieving independent living or self care goals. Annual earnings for full time rehabilitants averaged \$34,000.

Service Providers

Rehabilitation customers are served by 35 rehabilitation counselors in ten field offices, two placement specialists, four technology specialists, private contract vendors and Community Rehabilitation Programs. Services are provided through the statewide network of WorkForce Centers.

Brief Description of Program

Career and Independent Living Services provide or purchase direct rehabilitation services for persons of all ages who are blind or visually impaired (including those who have additional physical and/or mental impairments) when the loss of vision causes a barrier to vocational, educational or personal independence. Specific programs include: Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Child Rehabilitation (CR), Independent Living (IL), Self Care (SC) for the elderly, and an Older Blind Program under a special federal grant. Other services include counseling, instruction in alternative techniques including braille and travel training, vocational training, job placement and assistive technology through the SSB Resource Center.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes, Section 248; Minnesota Rules Chapter 3325; Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended; 34 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 361,363, 365, 366, and 385.

For More Information on Rehabilitation Programs, Contact:

Linda Lingen or Joe Pattison
Minnesota Department of Economic Security/**State Services for the Blind**
2200 University Ave. W. #240
St. Paul, Minn. 55114-1840
Phone: Linda 651-642-0504, Joe 651-642-0515 or 1-800-652-9000
E-mail: llingen@ngwmail.des.state.mn.us or jpattiso@ngwmail.des.state.mn.us

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Program Information

COMMUNICATION CENTER

Funding Source and Allocation

The Federal Fiscal Year 2000 funding for the Communication Center was \$2,200,000 which is composed of \$300,000 (14 percent) in state non-match funds, \$1,700,000 (77 percent) in federal and state-match funds, and \$200,000 (nine percent) in non-public funds.

Outcomes

The Braille Unit provided 903 braille books for education, 3,858 different vocational materials, and 1,121 personal enrichment books. The Engineering Unit provided repair services to 6,298 equipment units, as well as maintaining the broadcast and production equipment. The Radio Talking Book provided 8,784 hours of programming to 7,185 individuals and 244 institutions with receivers. The Audio Services Unit provided 44,559 cassette tapes of broadcasts to 430 listeners and served 404 students and adults with 6,989 cassettes of educational and vocational materials. The Center maintained and circulated 27,000 pieces of audio equipment. Dial-in News provided 24 hour access to the Twin City newspapers to 250 consumers who placed 95,529 calls to the system.

Service Providers

Braille transcription, proofreading and library/duplication services are provided by 16 staff, two contractors and 71 volunteers. Tape transcription, eligibility determinations, equipment distribution, and shipping and receiving services are provided by nine staff and 126 volunteers. Radio Talking Book services are provided by six staff and 359 volunteers. Dial-In-News services are provided by two staff persons and 78 volunteers. Tape duplication and equipment repair services are provided by four staff and 10 volunteers.

Brief Description of Program

The Communication Center provides access to the printed word for blind, visually impaired and physically impaired Minnesotans through statewide library, transcription and reading services. The Center lends transcribed textbooks and leisure reading books (braille or tape), and lends and repairs special phonographs and cassette players (through the Library of Congress Talking Book Program), and closed-circuit radios. The Center transcribes materials needed by all elementary, secondary and post-secondary blind and visually impaired students. The Center also transcribes vocational materials for individuals and for businesses and organizations (at cost) to meet their ADA requirements. The Center broadcasts a 24-hour radio reading service through a closed-circuit radio network. This includes five greater Minnesota outreach sites providing local news within their communities. The Center provides a 24-hour audio newspaper reading service, Dial-In News.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes, Section 248; Minnesota Rules, Chapter 3325; 34 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 361 and 385; 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 701-703.

For More Information on Communication Center Programs, Contact:

Chuk Hamilton
Minnesota Department of Economic Security\State Services for the Blind
2200 University Ave. W. #240
St. Paul, Minn. 55114-1840
Phone: 651-642-0512 or 1-800-652-9000
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Program Information

THE STORE

Funding Source and Allocation

Clients and consumers can purchase products at cost plus a handling charge. Sales were \$300,000 in FFY 2000.

Outcomes

In Federal Fiscal Year 2000 approximately 7,000 customers made purchases from THE STORE. This included walk-in, phone, and mail-order business from THE STORE catalog.

Service Providers

THE STORE's manager and assistant provide service to clients and consumers throughout the state.

Brief Description of Program

THE STORE sells special materials and supplies needed by blind and visually handicapped persons that are difficult to obtain elsewhere. Some of the items sold are white canes, talking clocks and calculators, Braille or large-face watches, adaptive cooking and sewing aids, and Braille or large-print playing cards. THE STORE is open between the hours of 10:00 and 4:30, Monday through Friday, and on the first Saturday of each month between 9:00 and 3:00.

Statutory Authority: Minnesota Statutes, Section 248.07, subd. 5.

For More Information on THE STORE, Contact:

Chuk Hamilton

Minnesota Department of Economic Security/State Services for the Blind

2200 University Ave. W. #240

St. Paul, MN 55114-1840

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