



February 2013

Governor proposes expansion to Lean effort in Minnesota

Continuing a commitment made in his first State of State address Governor Mark Dayton has proposed an expansion of the state's Lean Continuous Improvement (Lean/CI) program to accelerate the progress of the effort begun in 2008.

This increased investment would allow for expanded training opportunities for state and county employees, an increased yearly completion rate for improvement projects, and a strengthening of the framework for creating a culture of continuous improvement.

In his first State of State address, Governor Dayton said,

Improving government's efficiency and service quality while reducing its cost has bipartisan support – and leadership in both the public and private sectors. I want to thank General Mills for their support of our state's Enterprise LEAN business process improvement initiative. This initiative has improved service and cut costs; it will be expanded.

In a recent editorial in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Dayton's Chief of Staff Tina Smith, provided a rationale for this investment:

We are training state employees to reform government from the inside out. The continuous-improvement program known as "Lean" already has trained 2,700 employees to deliver better, faster services at a better price -- saving more than \$12 million over the last two years. Dayton's budget makes an additional investment that would improve the Lean program's impact significantly, saving millions more over the next two years.

The State Legislature is currently reviewing all elements of the Governor's budget, with final decisions on overall budget expected to be made in May.

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Did you know?

Our Lean trainings now have waitlists. If a class is full, join the waitlist and we'll contact you first if attendees cancel and spaces become available!

Dept. of Education Kaizen aims to transform Title I application process

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) held a Kaizen event from Feb. 4 through 7 focused on the submission and approval process for Title I applications.

The Title I program provides \$156 million in federal funding to local school districts to provide supplemental programming in reading and math and to support equitable educational opportunities for students. MDE administers the program and receives about 540 applications from school districts each year.

The processing of applications was requiring substantial staff time for both MDE and the school districts, due to incomplete applications, long timelines and lack of clarity and consistency in how the federal laws and guidelines were interpreted and applied.



The Dept. of Education Title 1 Kaizen Team.

The Kaizen team set goals to increase first pass yield of applications, reduce the amount of time required from area directors, standardize the application review process, and increase customer satisfaction among the local school districts.

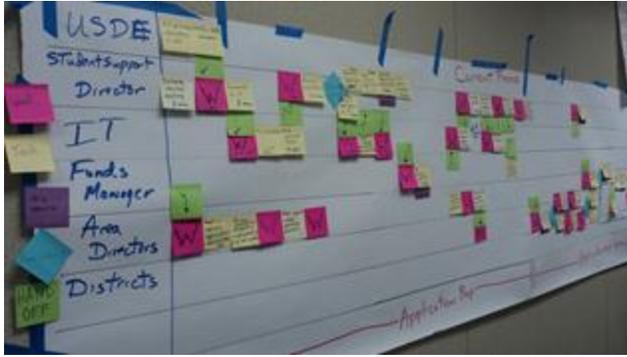
The team identified numerous issues with the current process and laid out a future process to address them. Recommendations included standardizing review criteria, enhancing IT software and processes, and providing better leadership and support to teachers, schools and districts. As one example, the department plans to provide training and templates to school districts to minimize incorrect information and the resulting rework. The future process streamlines the annual budget review and approval portion of the process.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 14, Lean 101, **Open**
Feb. 19-20, Kaizen Facilitator Training, **Open**
March 12 and 13, DNR Lean 101s
March 14-15 and 27-29, MCTC Kaizen Events
March 19, Lean 101, Full
March 20-21, Kaizen Facilitator Training, **Open**
March 26, Cass County Lean 101
April 1-5, U of M Kaizen Event
April 9, Lean 101, Full
April 10-11, Kaizen Facilitator Training, **Open**
April 17-19, Assoc. of MN Counties Lean Training
April 29, Sibley County Lean 101
April 30-May 2, Assoc. of MN Counties Lean Training
May 13, Lean 101, **Open**
May 14-15, Kaizen Facilitator Training, **Open**

View all Lean events at www.lean.state.mn.us/calendar

Register for trainings on our [Eventbrite page](#).



The current process swim lane map for the Title 1 application process.

Following these future process recommendations, the team expects to achieve full compliance with federal requirements, to reduce task time by about 75 percent, to reduce elapsed time by about 55 percent, and to increase first pass yield for submission of application narratives from the current average of 5 percent to about 80 percent.
