

Drive for 5 Quarterly Provider Meeting

Adult Career Pathways

Date: 7/8/2025

Icebreaker: Best and/or worst State Fair food?

Welcome

❖ DEED Staff Introductions

- Ann Meyers; Director of Adult Career Pathways ann.meyers@state.mn.us
- Jenilee Drilling; ACP Lead Program Coordinator jenilee.drilling@state.mn.us
- Vanessa Roman; ACP Lead Program Coordinator vanessa.roman@state.mn.us
- Sarah Lee; ACP Grant Coordinator sarah.lee@state.mn.us
- Beth Bidinger; ACP Grant Coordinator beth.bidinger@state.mn.us



Graduation to Employment:

Moving into the last year of this grant cycle, Grantees should focus on graduating participants, employment placements, and retention services.

- ❖ Outcomes as of July 3, 2025 (see PowerPoint)
 - *Outcomes behind projected numbers, but we have another year*
 - *Part 2 providers should focus on continuing to bring employers to the table, making connections, in this last year*

Understanding data and guidance available as managers and directors are regularly reviewing the data, at least on a quarterly basis.

- ❖ Quarterly Report training and directions
 - *Reminder of how to pull reports from WF1 is available on the ACP website*
 - *Outcomes/activities/exit reasons should be double checked. Managers should be running regular reports as a great way to evaluate progress, training needs, etc.*

- Quarterly report training is also available on the ACP website, reminder to be submitting these as due.

- ❖ Review the ACP Operations Guide, Job Quality Incentive section starting on page 27; how to exit participants and claim the job quality incentive

5 Common Compliance issues identified during monitoring

1. Missing or no monthly participant case notes
2. No WF1 data entry (participants missing from WF1)
3. Lack of fiscal policies and procedures
4. Lack of subgrantee/subrecipient contracts
5. Disallowance of support services issued prior to enrollment or following exit

As always, reach out to your coordinator with any and all questions!

Employer Engagement:

- ❖ Liz Jennings (Liz.jennings@state.mn.us)- Employer Engagement Supervisor CareerForce Division
 - [Contact information](#) see below

Liz and any member of her team are available via email or phone call to hear suggestions, offer help, connect you to resources, etc.

Request for Proposal SFY26-27:

- ❖ Funded in the SFY26-27 Legislative session. A Request for Proposal for the Drive for 5 initiative will be published this summer.
 - Our team took into consideration suggestions and ideas from these meetings and other conversations
 - We also considered best practices, areas that need some improvement while also being mindful of the requirements of the funding making sure these funds have the most impact on Minnesotans

There are some things we are unable to change due to legislative constraints, but regarding the things we can change: we listened to all the available feedback from you and tried to be incredibly intentional as to how these funds can be the most impactful. The kick-off event is one of the ways we feel we can help facilitate partnerships and relationships as soon as possible at the beginning of the grant period.

- ❖ **Kick-off event** – after awards have been announced we will send invitations for this event where we will introduce awarded providers, and their industry focus to make those initial connections between providers and with the Engagement Specialists.

What's going well? What improvement ideas do you have?

- ❖ Melissa – St Paul Area Chamber:
 - Given the recent string of economic changes that have happened in our community and around the country, along with the wrap of our Part 1 funding for this cycle, we at the Chamber have taken to chatting with our members, community and other entities to learn more about where the pain points are in workforce and talent development. There is at least one common theme coming through and we wonder how we might try to meet through Drive for 5 funding should we be so fortunate to be awarded another round. Is there room to work with DEED on what the workplan would look like?
- ❖ Due to some Legislative actions this session the SFY24 funds have been extended. Our team is working with DEED Fiscal/Accounting team to determine the best way to ensure your SFY24 funds are available throughout the duration of your grant period. Coordinators will be in touch with you after you have submitted the June 2025 RPR/FSR.

Question/answer from meeting chat:

Q: For Part 1's if we have a participant that we have requested our internal placement incentive for and receive the \$2500 for the participant being placed into employment, making \$25.00 or more an hour and working 32 hours per week, but during their employment, they are let go, quit, etc. and don't meet the 90-day retention incentive, but then later find new employment at or above \$25.00 per hour working 32 hours or more a week. Are agencies allowed to request an additional placement incentive for the same participant or?

A: In this situation Can't claim a second placement incentive, but can claim retention

Resources:

Adult Career Pathways webpage <https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/adult-career-pathways/>

DEED's Competitive Grants and Contracts webpage <https://mn.gov/deed/about/contracts/open-rfp.jsp>.

Next meeting: October 7th, 2025

Please send agenda items or information you want to share to the group. Ann.Meyers@state.mn.us

Thank you!

CareerForce Employer Engagement Specialist Team

Contacts July 2025

What we do: <https://careerforce.mn.gov/employer-engagement>

Main email: Employer.Engagement.DEED@state.mn.us

Contact information: <https://careerforce.mn.gov/find-your-employer-engagement-specialist>

Region	Counties	Contact
Central and Western Minnesota	<i>Counties:</i> Benton, Big Stone, Chippewa, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Pine, Renville, Sherburne, Stearns, Swift, Wright, Yellow Medicine	Adrienne Amell <ul style="list-style-type: none">Email: Adrienne.Amell@state.mn.usCall: 651-259-7567
East Metro (Twin Cities)	<i>Counties:</i> Dakota, Ramsey, Scott, Washington	Robert E. Willis <ul style="list-style-type: none">Email: robert.willis@state.mn.usCall: 612-709-8093
West Metro (Twin Cities)	<i>Counties:</i> Anoka, Hennepin	Armah Lansanah <ul style="list-style-type: none">Email: Armah.Lansanah@state.mn.usCall: 651-259-7587
Northeast Minnesota	<i>Counties:</i> Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis	Marla Beaty <ul style="list-style-type: none">Email: marla.beaty@state.mn.usCall: 218-259-1380

Northwest Minnesota	<i>Counties:</i> Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Morrison, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, Wilkin	Vanessa Skadsem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email: vanessa.skadsem@state.mn.us Call: 651-259-7582
Southern Minnesota	<i>Eastern Counties:</i> Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Winona <i>Western Counties:</i> Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan	Chris Dembiec <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email: chris.dembiec@state.mn.us Call: 507-205-6055
Statewide coordinator	Leads statewide projects and industry events for job seekers	Sandra Brick <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email: Sandra.brick@state.mn.us Call: 612-299-7209
Supervisor	Oversees all projects and the team across the state	Liz Jennings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email: liz.jennings@state.mn.us Call: 651-259-7570