

**American Rescue Plan (ARP) State
Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF)
Request Form**

Please complete this form in accordance with
the process instructions.

Agency/Point of Contact: Office of Higher Education

Title of Request: Workforce Stabilization Grants

Date: 7/30/2021

Request Amount: \$ 35,000,000

Expenditure Time Period: 8/15/2021 to 6/30/2023

Brief Summary of Request: (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted Minnesota's economy. According to recent information from DEED (Appendix A), 786,617 Minnesotans filled for Unemployment Insurance from March 2020 to March 2021. Of those, 23% or over 180,000 Minnesotans have still not returned to the workforce. Those who have not returned to the workplace are disproportionately workers of color (Appendix B), low-wage workers, and workers in industries like retail, food service, and health career fields like home health aides and personal care aides.

These Minnesotans may be permanently displaced from prior positions or looking to re-skill for a new career in a higher paying or high-need career field. The pandemic has also resulted in shortages of qualified workers in critical industries, including health care, machine technology, IT, agricultural and food science technicians, and other career areas. These grants will provide economic benefit as the state recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic by increasing the number of Minnesotans with the credentials and training needed to stabilize our workforce while earning a family sustaining wage.

This last dollar financial aid program provides a tuition-free opportunity to attend a Minnesota public or tribal college or university to over 20,000 students who have been most impacted by COVID-19. These grants, which will be administered by the Office of Higher Education and awarded through partner colleges, will allow eligible Minnesota residents who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree and who are in an approved program access to the education and training needed to re-skill/re-launch their careers into one of Minnesota's high-need career areas.

These grants will benefit a wide range of Minnesotans from all regions of the state and our communities of color. This grant is an effective, equity-centered strategy to increase the prosperity and economic vitality for Minnesotans statewide, especially Minnesotans of color.

Implementation of this program will begin in August 2021, with first student awards applied in spring 2022. Award sizes will range from \$100- \$15,400 per academic year, depending on student need, cost of attendance, and availability of other aid. Awards will be renewable for up to five semesters, including summers, to provide extended financial aid support to those who have been most impacted by COVID-19.

Dennis W. Olson Digitally signed by Dennis W. Olson
Date: 2021.08.03 12:49:52 -05'00'

Department Head Signature

8/3/2021

Date