

CHAPTER 116L

MINNESOTA JOB SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

116L.02 Job skills partnership program.
 116L.03 Board.
 116L.04 Partnership power.

116L.12 Funding mechanism.
 116L.17 State dislocated worker program.

116L.02 JOB SKILLS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) The Minnesota job skills partnership program is created to act as a catalyst to bring together employers with specific training needs with educational or other nonprofit institutions which can design programs to fill those needs. The partnership shall work closely with employers to prepare, train and place prospective or incumbent workers in identifiable positions as well as assisting educational or other nonprofit institutions in developing training programs that coincide with current and future employer requirements. The partnership shall provide grants to educational or other nonprofit institutions for the purpose of training workers. A participating business must match the grant-in-aid made by the Minnesota job skills partnership. The match may be in the form of funding, equipment, or faculty.

(b) The partnership program shall administer the health care and human services worker training and retention program under sections 116L.10 to 116L.15.

(c) The partnership program is authorized to use funds to pay for training for individuals who have incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty line. The board may grant funds to eligible recipients to pay for board-certified training. Eligible recipients of grants may include public, private, or nonprofit entities that provide employment services to low-income individuals.

History: 2003 c 128 art 13 s 28

116L.03 BOARD.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2002]

Subd. 2. **Appointment.** The Minnesota Job Skills Partnership Board consists of: seven members appointed by the governor, the chair of the governor's Workforce Development Council, the commissioner of employment and economic development, the chancellor, or the chancellor's designee, of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the president, or the president's designee, of the University of Minnesota, and two nonlegislator members, one appointed by the Subcommittee on Committees of the senate Committee on Rules and Administration and one appointed by the speaker of the house. If the chancellor or the president of the university makes a designation under this subdivision, the designee must have experience in technical education. Four of the appointed members must be members of the governor's Workforce Development Council, of whom two must represent organized labor and two must represent business and industry. One of the appointed members must be a representative of a nonprofit organization that provides workforce development or job training services.

[For text of subds 3 to 5, see M.S.2002]

Subd. 7. **Offices.** The Department of Employment and Economic Development shall provide office space and staff to the Job Skills Partnership Board for the execution of its duties. The board shall hire an executive director to assist in carrying out its duties.

History: 1Sp2003 c 4 s 1

116L.04 PARTNERSHIP POWER.

Subdivision 1. **Partnership program.** (a) The partnership program may provide grants-in-aid to educational or other nonprofit educational institutions using the following guidelines:

(1) the educational or other nonprofit educational institution is a provider of training within the state in either the public or private sector;

(2) the program involves skills training that is an area of employment need; and

(3) preference will be given to educational or other nonprofit training institutions which serve economically disadvantaged people, minorities, or those who are victims of economic dislocation and to businesses located in rural areas.

(b) A single grant to any one institution shall not exceed \$400,000. Up to 25 percent of a grant may be used for preemployment training.

Subd. 1a. Pathways program. The pathways program may provide grants-in-aid for developing programs which assist in the transition of persons from welfare to work and assist individuals at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. The program is to be operated by the board. The board shall consult and coordinate with program administrators at the Department of Economic Security to design and provide services for temporary assistance for needy families recipients.

Pathways grants-in-aid may be awarded to educational or other nonprofit training institutions for education and training programs and services supporting education and training programs that serve eligible recipients.

Preference shall be given to projects that:

(1) provide employment with benefits paid to employees;

(2) provide employment where there are defined career paths for trainees;

(3) pilot the development of an educational pathway that can be used on a continuing basis for transitioning persons from welfare to work; and

(4) demonstrate the active participation of Department of Economic Security workforce centers, Minnesota State College and University institutions and other educational institutions, and local welfare agencies.

Pathways projects must demonstrate the active involvement and financial commitment of private business. Pathways projects must be matched with cash or in-kind contributions on at least a one-to-one ratio by participating private business.

A single grant to any one institution shall not exceed \$400,000. Up to 25 percent of a grant may be used for preemployment training.

[For text of subs 2 and 4, see M.S.2002]

History: 2003 c 128 art 13 s 29,30

116L.12 FUNDING MECHANISM.

[For text of subs 1 and 3, see M.S.2002]

Subd. 4. Grants. Within the limits of available appropriations, the board shall make grants not to exceed \$400,000 each to qualifying consortia to operate local, regional, or statewide training and retention programs. Grants may be made from TANF funds, general fund appropriations, and any other funding sources available to the board, provided the requirements of those funding sources are satisfied. Up to 25 percent of a grant may be used for preemployment training. Grant awards must establish specific, measurable outcomes and timelines for achieving those outcomes.

[For text of subs 5 and 6, see M.S.2002]

History: 2003 c 128 art 13 s 31

116L.17 STATE DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2002]

Subd. 2. Grants. The board shall make grants to workforce service areas or other eligible organizations to provide services to dislocated workers. The board shall allocate funds available for the purposes of this section in its discretion to respond to large layoffs. The board shall regularly allocate funds to provide services to individual dislocated workers or small groups. The allocation for this purpose must be at least 35 percent and no more than 50 percent of the actual collections, including penalty and

interest accounts, interest, and other earnings of the workforce development fund during the period for which the allocation is made, less any collection costs paid out of the fund and any amounts appropriated by the legislature from the workforce development fund for programs other than the state dislocated worker program. The board shall consider the need for services to individual workers and workers in small layoffs in comparison to those in large layoffs relative to the needs in previous years when making this allocation. The board may, in its discretion, allocate funds carried forward from previous years under subdivision 9 for large, small, or individual layoffs.

Subd. 3. Allocation of funds. The board, in consultation with local workforce councils and local elected officials, shall develop a method of distributing funds to provide services for dislocated workers who are dislocated as a result of small or individual layoffs. The board shall consider current requests for services and the likelihood of future layoffs when making this allocation. The board shall consider factors for determining the allocation amounts that include, but are not limited to, the previous year's obligations and projected layoffs. After the first quarter of the program year, the board shall evaluate the obligations by workforce service areas for the purpose of reallocating funds to workforce service areas with increased demand for services. Periodically throughout the program year, the board shall consider making additional allocations to the workforce service areas with a demonstrated need for increased funding. The board shall make an initial determination regarding allocations under this subdivision by July 15, 2001, and in subsequent years shall make a determination by June 15.

[For text of subs 4 to 7, see M.S.2002]

Subd. 8. Administrative costs. No more than five percent of the funds appropriated to the board for the purposes of this section may be spent by the board for its administrative costs.

[For text of subd 9, see M.S.2002]

Subd. 10. Rapid response activities. The commissioner, in cooperation with local workforce councils, shall be responsible for implementing the following rapid response activities:

(1) establishing on-site contact with employer and employee representatives within a short period of time after becoming aware of a current or projected plant closing or substantial layoff in order to:

(i) provide information on and facilitate access to available public programs and services; and

(ii) provide emergency assistance adapted to the particular closure or layoff;

(2) promoting the formation of a employee-management committee by providing:

(i) immediate assistance in the establishment of the employee-management committee;

(ii) technical advice and information on sources of assistance and liaison with other public and private services and programs; and

(iii) assistance in the selection of worker representatives in the event no union is present;

(3) collecting and disseminating information related to economic dislocation, including potential closings or layoffs, and all available resources with the state for dislocated workers;

(4) providing or obtaining appropriate financial and technical advice and liaison with economic development agencies and other organizations to assist in efforts to avert dislocation;

(5) disseminating information throughout the state on the availability of services and activities carried out by the dislocated worker unit; and

(6) assisting the local workforce council in developing its own coordinated response to a plant closing or substantial layoff and access to state economic development assistance.

History: 2003 c 128 art 13 s 32-35