



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

Workforce Investment Act

James H. McCormick, Chancellor
Minnesota State Colleges & Universities
www.mnscu.edu

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities are active partners with their local WorkForce Centers. The system and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development coordinate programs, services and activities under the Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act and the Workforce Investment Act, and related state programs such as Minnesota Job Skills Partnership, Job Opportunity Building Zones, dislocated worker programs and other initiatives.

Minnesota can serve as an exemplary model or demonstration site to address dislocated worker needs and workforce training under the Workforce Investment Act under discussion for reauthorization:

Training Fulfillment Center — Based on a successful state model, an interactive Web-based communication tool has been developed for counselors to connect their dislocated worker clients with job training opportunities. The tool allows counselors to request training, and training providers to respond to specific training and education needs requested by counselors, their clients and employers.

Workforce Education Planning and Review — Minnesota State Colleges and Universities in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development has developed an exemplary tool to analyze gaps between labor supply and demand. This powerful tool is used for identifying workforce market share, labor shortages and labor surpluses. The data is used to inform colleges on new and emerging workforce needs that can be addressed through career and technical education.

New American Education and Training — Incentive funding awarded to Minnesota for meeting performance goals under the act including Adult Basic Education and Perkins has been targeted toward serving immigrant populations with English language learning and job training. This collaborative effort of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the Department of Employment and Economic Development and the Department of Education is demonstrating early positive results and is ready for expansion and to serve as a model for other states. The model targets labor market demands and is business driven at the local level.

These exemplary activities identified above have one key factor in common: multiple state agencies work together on a common plan to deliver services to a single customer base.

Issues for Consideration

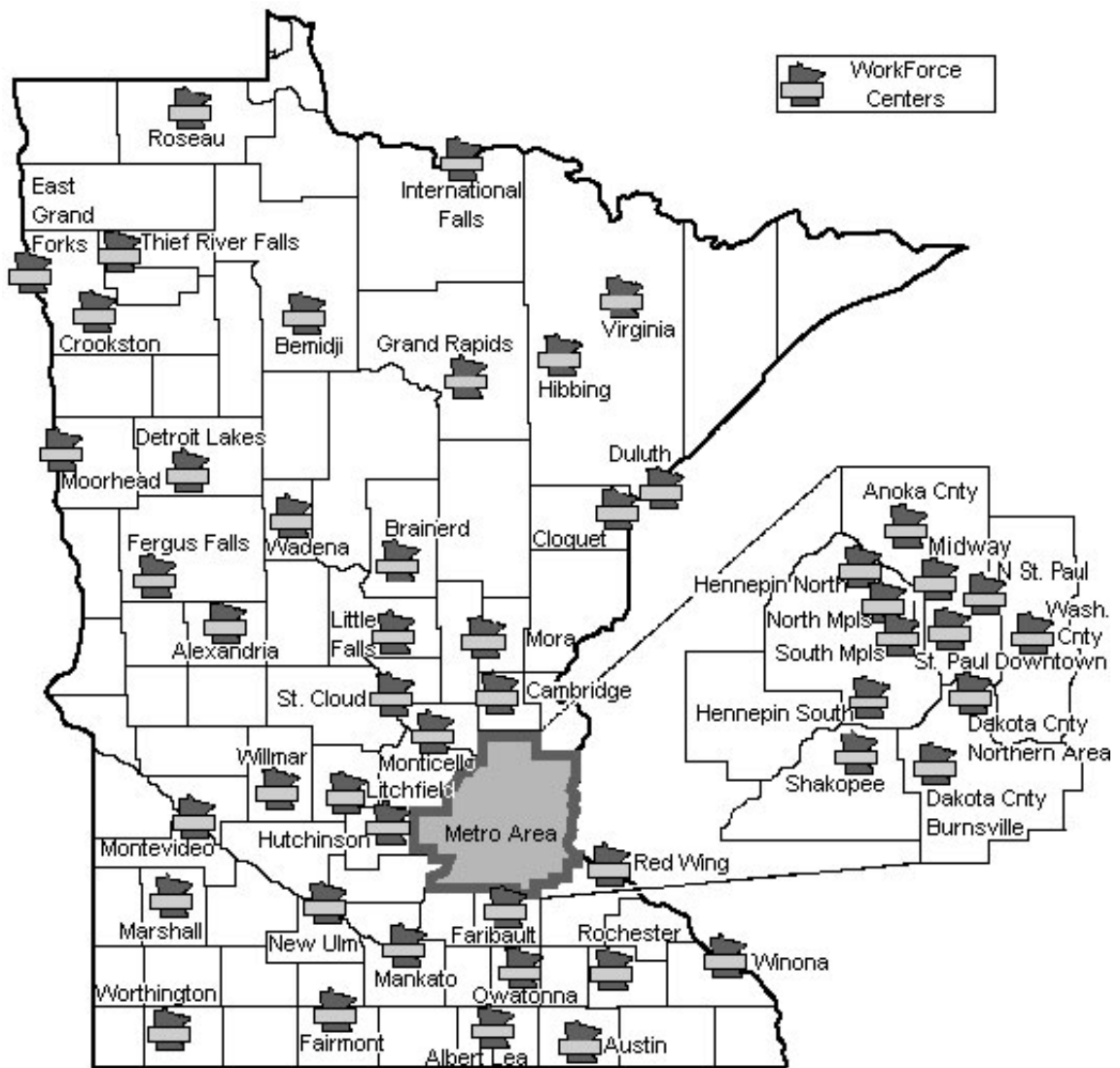
- Continue to identify training as the priority use for Dislocated Worker funds.
- Support streamlined and simplified performance measures for accountability. However, accountability for efficiency must recognize differences in client needs including demographics, abilities, economic and other variables that affect service delivery time and costs.
- Ensure state flexibility to maintain quality and equitable services to both urban and rural areas. Ensure state flexibility to support statewide initiatives. Support service expenditures over administration.
- Do not allow shifting of Carl D. Perkins Act funds to one-stop infrastructure support. Partner contribution reflects both hard dollars and in-kind contributions. In FY2004, Minnesota Perkins recipient colleges contributed approximately \$211,600 in actual dollars and another \$402,000 in in-kind contributions. A mandated contribution or allocation is not necessary.
- Continue to ensure strong roles for business and education partners in the governance structure of the one-stop system, at both local and state levels.
- Maintain services for youth programs for both in-school and out-of-school youth. Allow for state flexibility in service delivery environments and "at risk" definition.

For further information contact:

Mary Jacquart
Director, Government Relations
Minnesota State Colleges & Universities
Phone: (651) 296-0664
mary.jacquart@so.mnscu.edu

Pradeep Kotamraju
System Director,
Carl D. Perkins Act Administration
Minnesota State Colleges & Universities
Phone: (651) 282-5569
pradeep.kotamraju@so.mnscu.edu

WorkForce Center Locations



Minnesota State Colleges and Universities share co-located sites with the Minnesota WorkForce Center system at Winona, Thief River Falls, International Falls, Hutchinson and Austin.



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STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

WELLS FARGO PLACE
30 7th St. E., Suite 350
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-7804

ph 651.296.8012
fx 651.297.5550
www.mnscu.edu

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