

# ASSISTANCE FOR MINNESOTA BUSINESSES



## RESOURCES AND INFORMATION TO HELP YOUR BUSINESS GROW

Minnesota is a great place to do business – offering all the advantages that have made us one of the top five in America’s Top States for Business for three years running (CNBC, 2015-2017).

It’s not easy to start, manage or expand a business. Having professional guidance at the right time can save time and money. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) offers information, programs and services to help businesses succeed.

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

DEED offers help for businesses at all stages.

[mn.gov/deed/business](http://mn.gov/deed/business)

**Small Business Assistance Office** provides in-depth information, assistance and publications on startup, operation or expansion of a small business, employment law, intellectual property, franchising, electronic commerce and other topics.

[mn.gov/deed/sbao](http://mn.gov/deed/sbao)

**Small Business Development Centers** provide no cost, one-on-one consulting on topics including business planning, financing, operations and marketing at locations statewide.

[mn.gov/deed/sbdc](http://mn.gov/deed/sbdc)

**Location Assistance Services** can help you find the right land, building or community for your business startup, expansion or relocation. Minnesota has more than 30 shovel-ready certified development sites as well as a GIS mapping-based database of available sites and buildings around the state with demographic information.

[mn.gov/deed/locating](http://mn.gov/deed/locating)

**Minnesota Business First Stop** streamlines the development process for complex business startups, expansions or relocations that involve financing, licensing, permitting and regulatory issues that overlap multiple state agencies.

[mn.gov/deed/firststop](http://mn.gov/deed/firststop)

**Made in Minnesota** is a manufacturers’ supply chain database that makes it easy for Minnesota companies to find – and be found by – home-state suppliers that are a perfect fit.

[mn.gov/deed/madeinmn](http://mn.gov/deed/madeinmn)

### BUSINESS FINANCING

For business financing, call 651-259-7430, 1-800-657-3858.

[mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business](http://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business)

**Minnesota Investment Fund** provides financing to help companies expand, add workers and retain high-quality jobs.

**Minnesota Job Creation Fund** provides financial incentives after certain job creation and capital investment targets are met.

**Angel Loan Fund** offers a funding option for businesses certified to participate in Minnesota’s Angel Tax Credit Program.

**Targeted business programs** include:

- **Minnesota Emerging Entrepreneur Loan Program** makes loans of up to \$150,000 to small businesses owned by minorities, women, veterans, persons with disabilities and low-income individuals.
- **Minnesota Indian Business Loan Program**
- **Minnesota Reservist and Veteran Business Loan Program**

**Tax credit programs** include:

- **Research and Development Tax Credit Program**
- **Greater Minnesota Job Expansion Program**
- **Opportunity Zones (a federal program)**

**Industry-specific incentives** include:

- **Data Center Tax Incentives**
- **AGRI Bioincentive Program**
- **Minnesota Minerals 21st Century Fund**

**Community development funding** includes:

- **Site Clean-up and Redevelopment Funding**
- **Innovative Business Development Public Infrastructure Program**
- **Greater Minnesota Business Development Infrastructure Program**

## EXPORTING ASSISTANCE

The Minnesota Trade Office (MTO), a part of DEED, assists Minnesota companies in exporting their products and services.

[mn.gov/deed/trade](https://mn.gov/deed/trade)

- Trade assistance helpline: 651-259-7498
- Export counseling and technical assistance
- Export education and training
- Trade missions, trade shows and other events
- STEP Grant Program for export training and development activities

## WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

DEED provides a broad range of workforce assistance to employers at [mn.gov/deed/business/finding-workers](https://mn.gov/deed/business/finding-workers)

**Recruitment:** MinnesotaWorks.net allows businesses to post job openings at no fee and search for qualified candidates locally or statewide. [MinnesotaWorks.net](https://MinnesotaWorks.net)

**Training:** Minnesota has various programs to help employers train or retrain workers, including:

- **Minnesota Job Skills Partnership** provides educational institutions up to \$400,000 to develop customized training in partnership with businesses. [mn.gov/deed/mjisp](https://mn.gov/deed/mjisp)
- **Minnesota Job Training Incentive Program** offers training grants to new or expanding businesses in Greater Minnesota that are adding new jobs.

**Workforce Strategy Consultants:** Across the state, our region-based consultants have expertise in industry sector workforce development strategies; they connect businesses to resources and help them develop solutions to employee shortages. [mn.gov/deed/wsc](https://mn.gov/deed/wsc)

**Employment Specialists:** help businesses streamline the process of finding, recruiting and hiring workers with disabilities. Services are offered at no cost to businesses.

**Downsizing:** When businesses are faced with layoffs or plant closings, the Dislocated Worker program provides assistance with training and employment services. [mn.gov/deed/dw](https://mn.gov/deed/dw)



## INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Timely, reliable information is key in business decision making. DEED offers a broad range of information at no charge.

**Data Center:** We offer information about key industries and sectors, current and emerging business issues, workforce and economic trends as well as state and regional labor markets and salary information. Our labor market economists and analysts are available to answer questions. [mn.gov/deed/data](https://mn.gov/deed/data)

**Compare Minnesota:** This online database offers statistical comparisons between Minnesota and other states, plus comparisons between the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area and the nation's largest metro areas. [mn.gov/deed/compare](https://mn.gov/deed/compare)

**Publications and Business Guidebooks:** We offer a broad range of business guidebooks and publications at no charge. You'll find links to "Publications" and "Business Guidebooks" at the bottom of the DEED home page at [mn.gov/deed](https://mn.gov/deed)

**Unemployment Insurance:** DEED administers the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Program and can help you get the information you need to know as an employer. It also offers information about layoff alternatives, such as the **Shared Work Program**. [uimn.org](https://uimn.org)

**International Market Research and Trade Resources:** DEED's business research library, staffed by professional research librarians, has online resources and is open by appointment. [mn.gov/deed/business/exporting/research](https://mn.gov/deed/business/exporting/research)

Office of Business Development  
651-259-7432 • [Economic.Development@state.mn.us](mailto:Economic.Development@state.mn.us)

[CompareMN.com](https://CompareMN.com)