

WORKFORCE STRATEGY CONSULTANTS

WORKFORCE WEDNESDAY

Providing Workforce Solutions for MN Employers



Welcome!
We will begin shortly

Workforce Strategy Consultants

Assist employers in increasing the number of applicants and new hires

Enhance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) within their workplace

Offer employer tools to assist them in reviewing and enhancing their current training programs

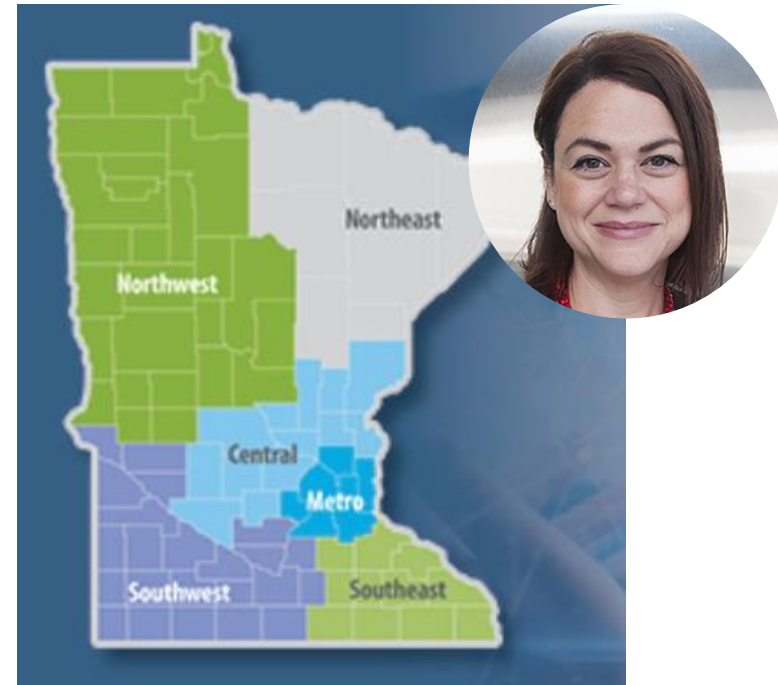
Enhance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) within their workplace

Develop programs that help employers be recognized as an employer of choice in their industry

Jessica Miller

Director of Workforce Strategy

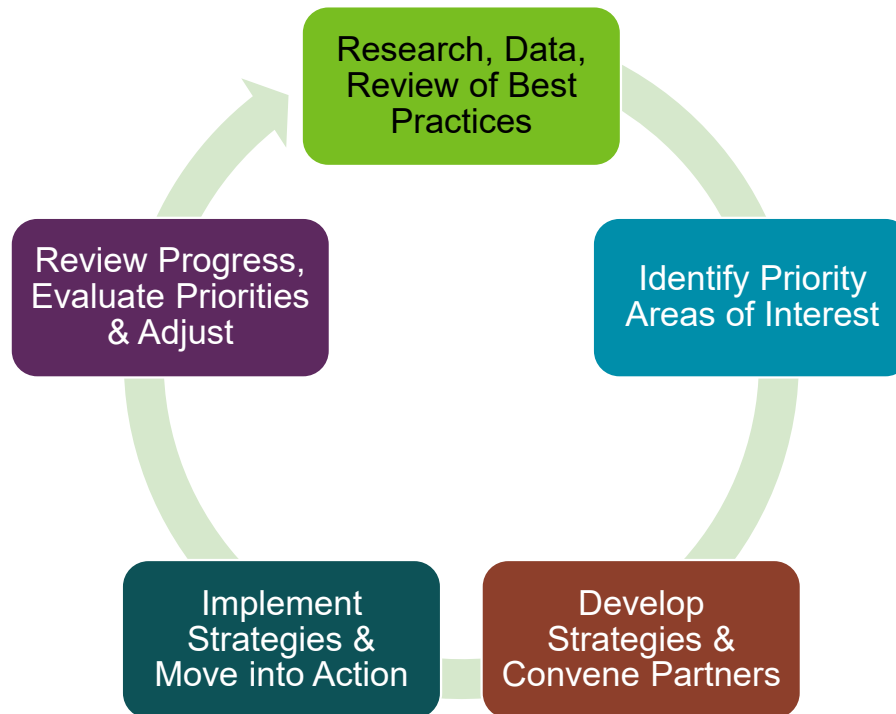
Jessica.Miller@state.mn.us



What WSC Does

Mission

Develop innovative workforce solutions by aligning resources, facilitating collaboration, and leveraging expertise in target industry sectors to drive economic equity and growth.



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2026 Workforce Wednesday Schedule

- **January 7:** From Doer to Leader: Practical Support Strategies for Frontline Supervisors
- **February 4:** “Check Your Filters: How Biases Shape Hiring, Feedback, and Leadership”
- **March 4:** Future-Proofing Your Workforce: Skills for 2030 and Beyond
- **April 1:** Navigating Generational Differences in the Workplace
- **May 6:** Neurodiverse Workforce: Accommodations, Job slicing and Superpowers
- **June 3:** Who is MAWB? An Inside Look at Minnesota’s Workforce Development Boards
- **July 8:** Raising the Bar: How to Assess and Improve Job Quality
- **August 5:** Opportunities for All: Reimagining Workforce Development
- **September 2:** Mentorships, Sponsorships & Succession Planning
- **October 7:** Developing Successful Career Pathways through Youth Skills Training & Youth Apprenticeships
- **November 4:** Minnesota’s Indigenous Workforce
- **December 2:** 2026 Review with 2027 Preview

View the schedule and register for sessions at:
<https://careerforce.mn.gov/WorkforceWednesday>

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Who is MAWB? An Inside Look at Minnesota's Workforce Development Boards

June 3, 2026

Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Agenda and Learning Objectives
- Overview of Minnesota Workforce Development Boards
- Panel Discussion
- Panel Wrap-Up and Closing
- Unplugged

Objectives

- Gain a better understanding of MAWB & Local Workforce Boards
 - Structure & Mission
 - Partners
 - Services for Employers, Jobseekers, and Youth
 - Providing advocacy for Minnesota job seekers
 - Examples of best practices across the state
- Getting involved with the workforce board in your area

Introduction to Panelists



Cate Duin

Director – Workforce, Economic Development & Housing
Association of Minnesota Counties
cduin@mncounties.org



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION
OF WORKFORCE BOARDS

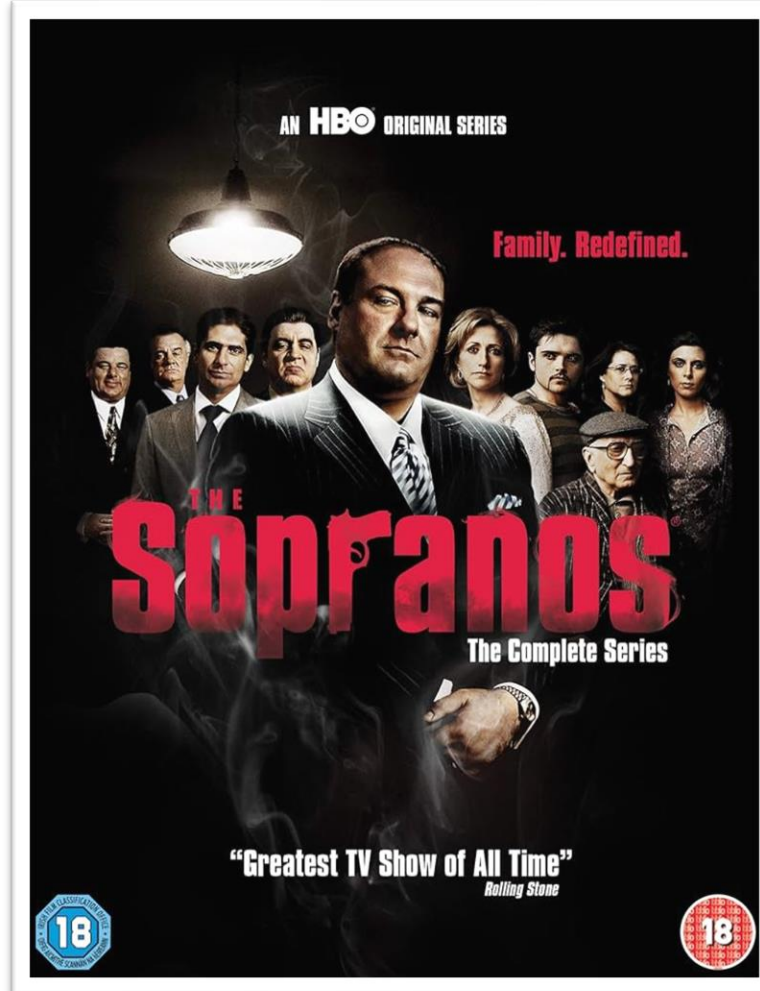
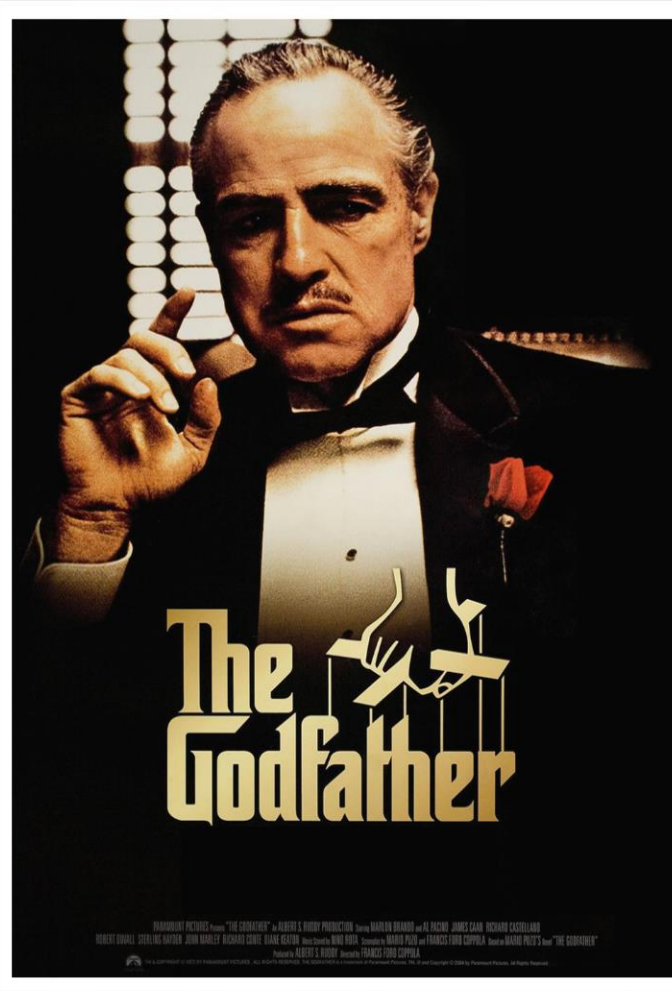
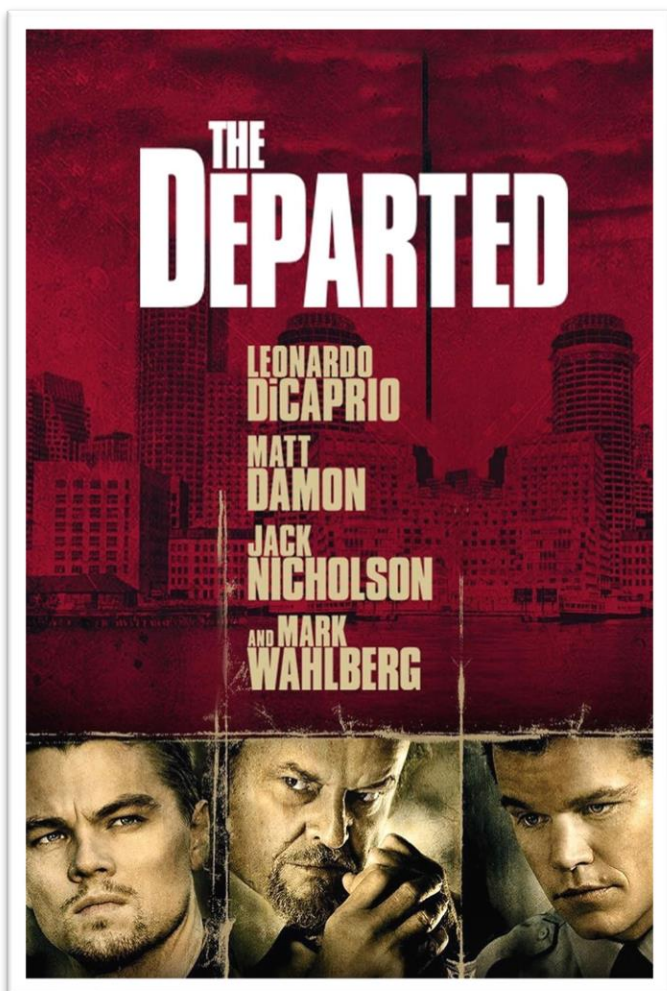
Who is MAWB?

An Inside Look at Minnesota's Workforce Development Boards

Cate Duin, Executive Director, Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards

June 3, 2026

Other Inside Looks:





Goals for today:

1. Who is MAWB?
2. Inside Look at Local Workforce Boards
3. MAWB as a partner: from policy to innovation

Who is MAWB?

Our Mission

Provide Minnesota with a skilled and competitive workforce through engaged and proactive local elected officials, workforce boards, and staff.

What we do:

- **Discuss and represent common interests.**
- **Develop policy consensus** and share information with elected officials.
- **Share and communicate successful strategies** among partners.
- **Provide training** on emerging issues within the workforce system.
- **Encourage the development** of members and boards.
- **Serve as a liaison** to state and federal entities.



What we value:

- Locally driven, community embedded workforce services that are built on relationships.
- Blending local knowledge with statewide data to meet real needs.
- Flexible, practical service delivery
- Accountability and responsible stewardship of public funds.



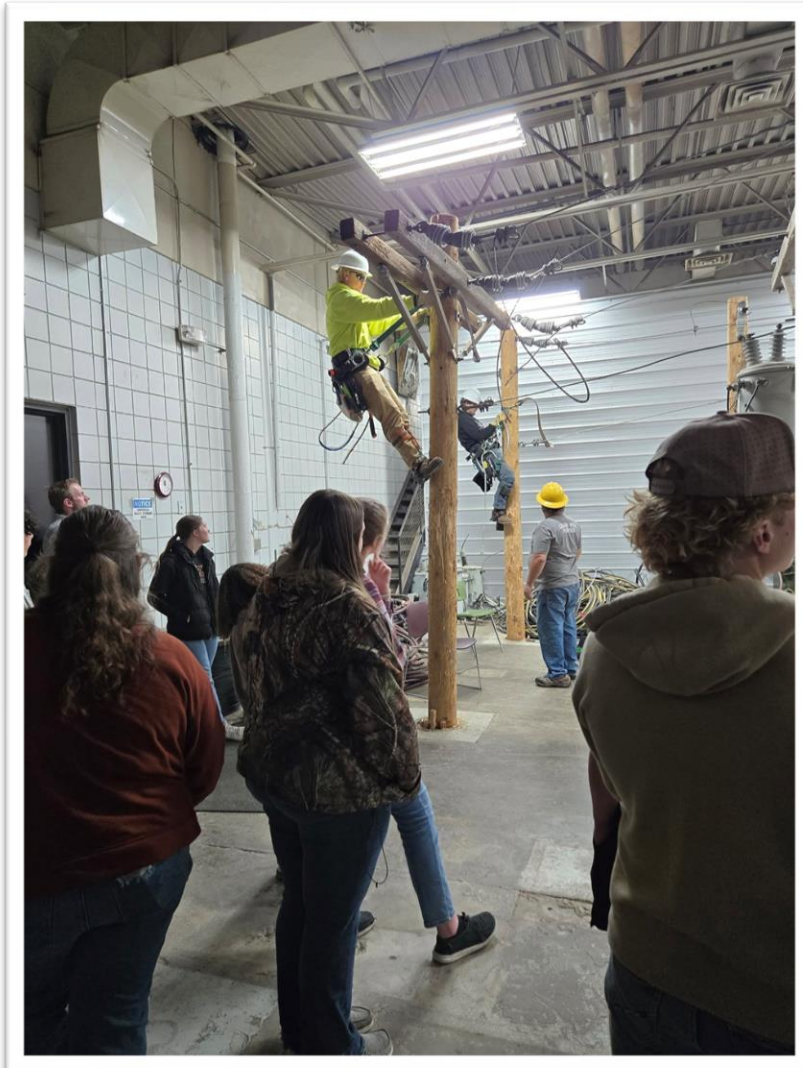
What we're talking about lately:

- Workforce impacts from AI
- SNAP and Medicaid work requirements
- Increasing layoffs
- Supporting youth in career exploration and development
- Importance of short-term training as a tool for our economy



Bottom Line: Why does all of this matter?

Inside Look at Local Workforce Boards



Data informed.

Business driven.

Community responsive.

**Responsible stewards of
public funds.**

Got a need? Connect with us.

Our Structure

Local Workforce Boards were created by federal law:

- **Our Charge**
- **Our Design and Membership**
- **Our Partners**

Our work goes beyond what is federally funded and mandated.

Our Charge

- Analyze local economic conditions, labor market data, and workforce needs.
- Use this information to guide investment of public resources.
- Develop strategies to meet local workforce needs.
- Work with state and federal partners to align our public workforce efforts.



Board membership must include:

- Chair of the Board (private sector)
- Local Elected Official – usually a County Commissioner or Mayor
- Director, who staffs the board.
- 51% Local business leaders
- State agencies
- Post-secondary education
- Labor
- Adult Basic Education
- Economic development

Often include:

- K-12 education
- Community-based organizations
- Youth-serving organizations
- Other stakeholders



Performance and Accountability

- Local Workforce Boards are held to stringent performance goals that address:
 - credential attainment
 - measurable skills gain
 - employment placement
 - employment retention
 - earnings
- Detailed annual monitoring



Our Partners

- DEED and the Governor's Workforce Development Board are core partners.
- Partners in CareerForce, the one stop location for jobseekers and employers to access services.
- Partner with DLI, DCFY, MDE-ABE, and DOC.

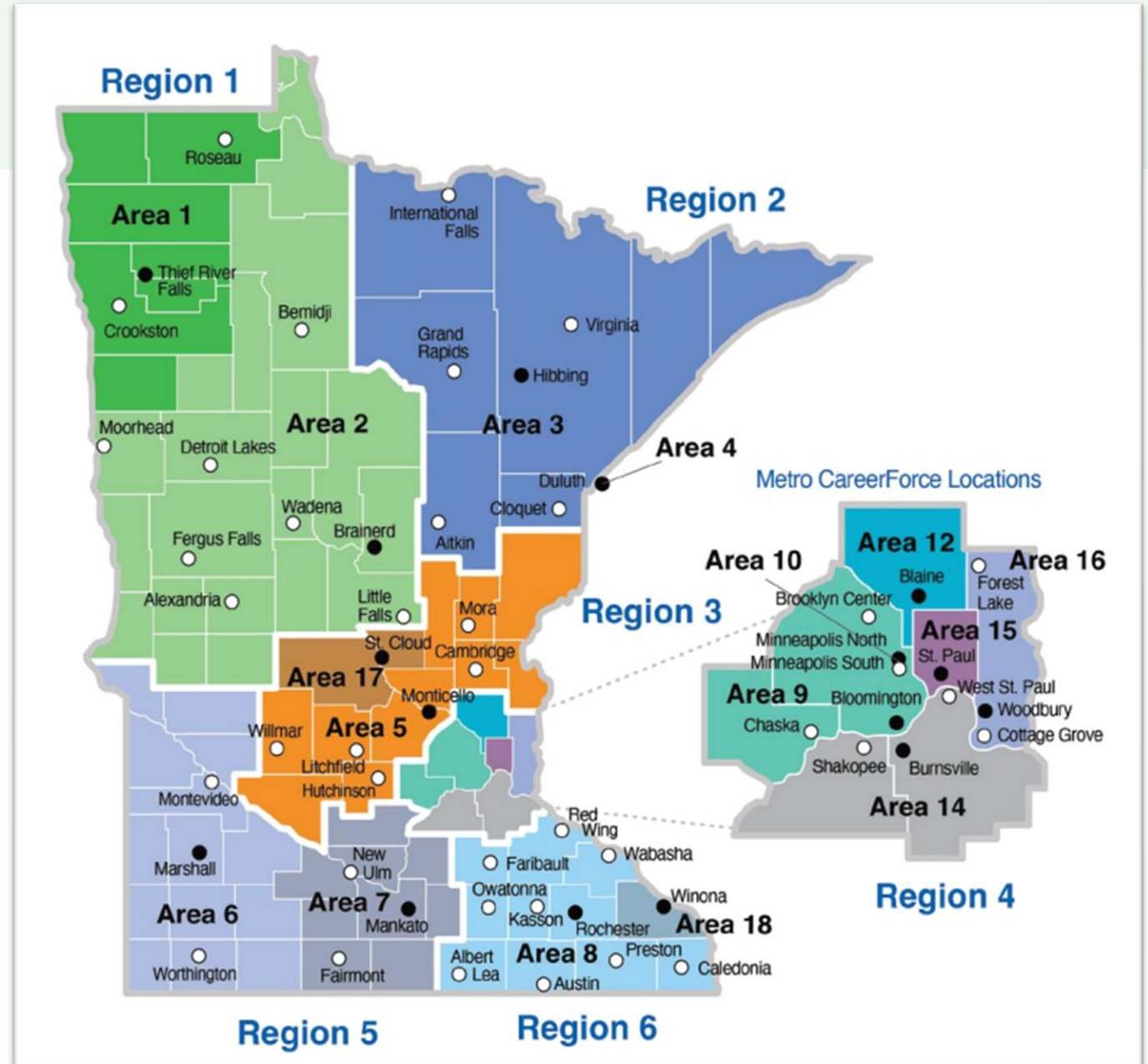


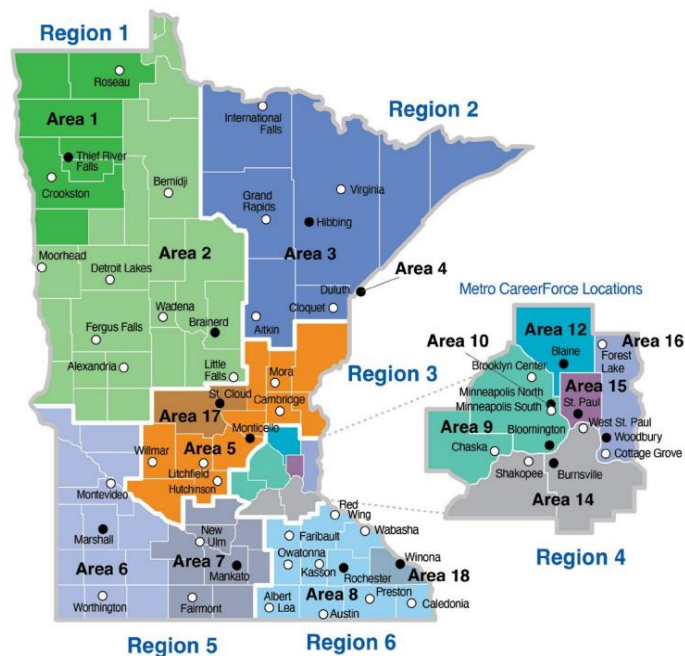
Our Partners

- Employers
- Community-Based Organizations
- Labor unions and apprenticeship programs
- K-12 and Higher Education Institutions



Minnesota's 16 Local Workforce Boards





So, why does that matter?

Data informed.

Business driven.

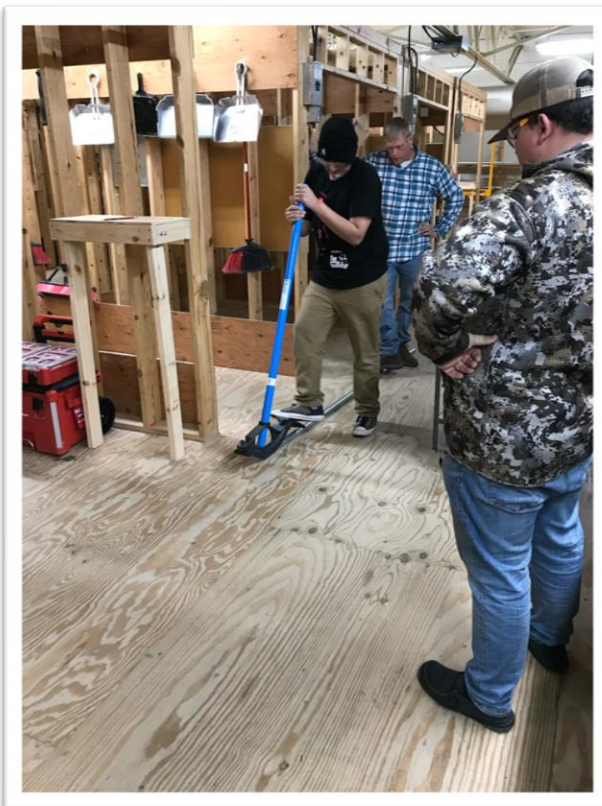
Community responsive.

Responsible stewards of public funds.

Got a need? Connect with us.

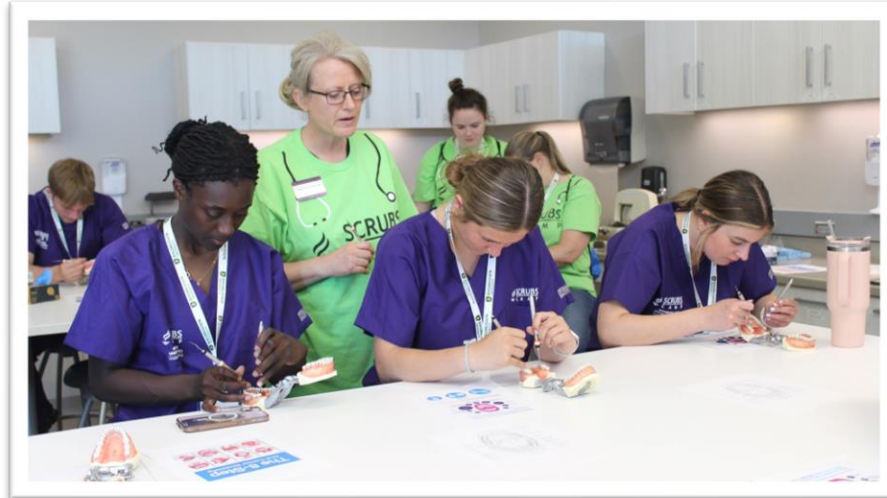
We serve three main customers:

- Jobseekers
- Employers
- Youth and young adults (ages 14-24)



Serving Jobseekers

- Access to support at CareerForce Centers
- Intensive one-on-one support through programs
 - *Career counseling and guidance*
 - *Career exploration*
 - *Access to training for high-wage, high-demand careers*
 - *Work readiness assistance*
 - *Paid internships*
 - *Job search assistance*
 - *Support services*



Serving Employers

- Recruiting assistance
- Retention support
- Incumbent Worker Training
- On-the-job training for employees
- Work experience and apprenticeships
- Strategic planning and sharing of best practices



Serving Youth and Young Adults

- Partnerships with K-12 school districts and two/four-year colleges
- Support for diploma, GED, and post-secondary training
- Career exploration and work readiness
- Paid work experience, internships, summer jobs
- Mentoring
- Intensive one-on-one support



MAWB as a Policy and Innovation Partner

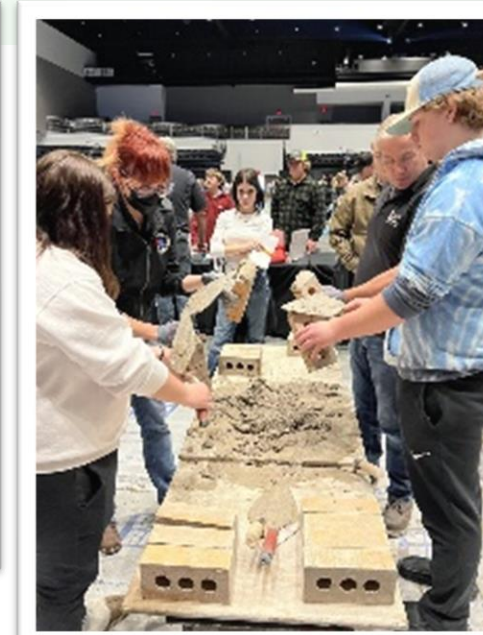
Policy work:

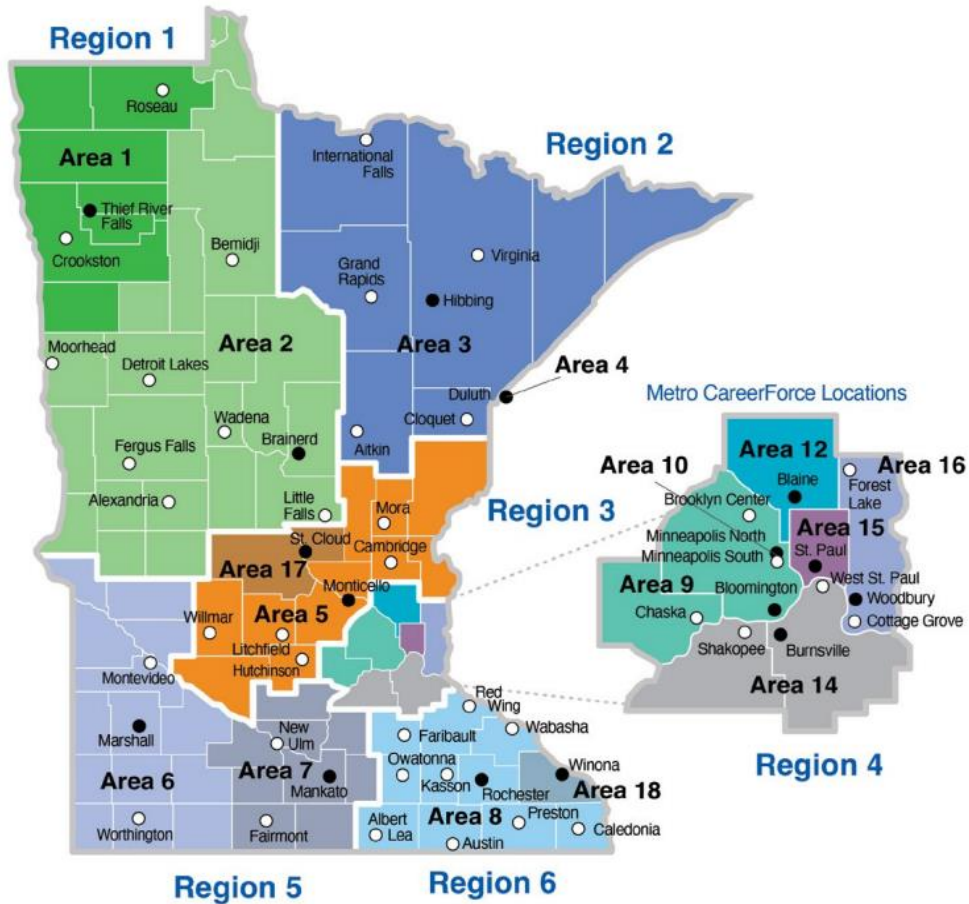
- Funding for youth services and dislocated workers/employers.
- Advocating for increased flexibility in eligibility
- Conversations with legislators about the system (more alignment and ways to serve businesses together).



Innovation and Promising Practices

- Highlight best practices across the state to our peer network.





Why does this matter?

Data informed.

Business driven.

Community responsive.

Responsible stewards of public funds.

Got a need? Got an idea?
Connect with us.

Thank you! Questions?

Cate Duin
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Panel Discussion

MAWB Panelists



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Employer Panelists



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Next Session: Raising the Bar: How to Assess and Improve Job Quality

Wednesday, July 8, 2026
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Unplugged Q&A: 12:00 – 12:30 PM

Thanks for Joining Us!

Find Your Workforce Strategy Consultant

MINNESOTA WORKFORCE STRATEGY CONSULTANTS

MISSION

Develop innovative workforce solutions by aligning resources, facilitating collaboration, and leveraging expertise in targeted industry sectors to drive economic equity and growth.

THE VALUE WE BRING

- > Provide tools and resources to support businesses in developing strategic workforce strategies
- > Connect stakeholders to economic development and workforce development resources
- > Focus on workforce diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives
- > Enhance Minnesota's economic prosperity through workforce and economic development partnerships
- > Work in partnership with our stakeholders to provide workforce training development solutions to meet your talent needs



WORKFORCE STRATEGY CONSULTANTS



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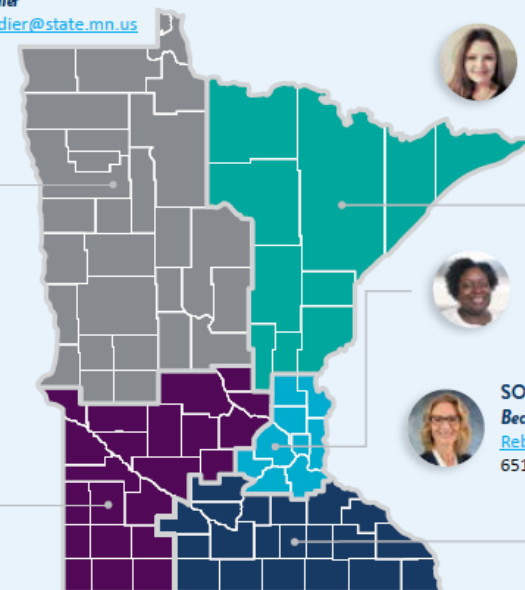
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UNPLUGGED – Q AND A

