

This state-by-state guide highlights a range of tax credits and incentive programs specifically relevant to the convenience services industry, offering operators clear application instructions and links to find further information. While this report emphasizes programs tailored to the convenience services industry, you know your business and its unique needs.

Opportunities for Convenience Services Operators

Job Training Incentive Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This program provides grants to new or expanding businesses located in Greater Minnesota for the purposes of training workers as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Eligibility Requirements

Business eligibility:

1. The business is located outside of the seven county metropolitan area or located in the cities of Hanover, Rockford, Northfield, Cannon Falls and New Prague
2. Must be a new or expanding business that commits to hiring permanent employees in new jobs that provide at least 32 hours of work per week for a minimum of nine months per year.
3. The new jobs must pay annual wages at least equal to 120% of federal poverty guidelines for a family of four, plus benefits, by the end of the training period. For 2024, this is \$37,440 per year, which is equivalent to \$17.87 per hour based on a 2096-hour work year.
4. The business will add at least three new jobs at the project location.

Businesses primarily engaged as a public utility or in retail sales at the project location, health care services, lobbying, gambling, professional sports, political consulting, leisure, hospitality or professional services provided by attorneys, accountants, business consultants, physicians, or healthcare consultants are **not eligible**.

Program requirements:

1. The business must be able to demonstrate that its training needs cannot be met through a Minnesota Job Skills Partnership grant.
2. The training is in an eligible topic area.
3. The business must match state funds with cash or in-kind contributions on a .5:1 basis.
4. To be considered a new job, the job must be added on or after the date of application.

5. Must intend for training to begin within six months of the award date. At DEED's discretion, one three-month extension may be granted.
6. Grants awarded in fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) must be completed by June 30, 2024. Grants awarded in fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) must be completed by June 30, 2025.
7. The application must identify the training to be provided for each job category, projected costs, expected outcomes and a timeline for the training.

Application Information

Applications are accepted on a year-round, first-come, first-serve basis contingent on receipt of an eligible application and the availability of funding.

Interested businesses are encouraged to contact DEED to inquire about eligibility and the availability of funding. Once an application is submitted, DEED staff will evaluate and score the application and notify the applicant of approval or denial within 15 days or as soon as reasonably possible after receipt of the complete application. Eligible applications with a minimum score of 30 points will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. The business must pay a \$500 application fee payable upon preliminary approval of the application.

[Application Link](#)

[Additional information available from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.](#)

Other Credits, Incentives and Government Programs

Agri Livestock Investment Grant

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The AGRI Livestock Investment Grant encourages long-term industry development for Minnesota livestock farmers and ranchers by helping them improve, update, and modernize their livestock operation infrastructure and equipment.

Agricultural Improvement Loan Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A loan participation program to assist eligible farmers which will improve production, efficiency, and increase farm income. Agricultural improvements mean improvements to a farm, including the purchase and construction or installation of improvements to land, buildings and other permanent structures.

Agricultural Microloan Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The program focus is to assist non-traditional farmers in the transition from their current situation to one where operators qualify for traditional avenues of agricultural credit.

Agriculture Best Management Practices Loan Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The AgBMP Loan Program is a water quality program that provides low-interest loans to farmers, rural landowners, and agriculture supply businesses.

Disaster Recovery Loan Program

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The funds can be used for to help clean up, repair, or replace farm buildings, repair or replace septic and water systems, replace seed, fertilizer (or other cropping inputs), feed, or livestock and poultry.

Dual Training Grants

MINNESOTA OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The Dual Training Grant is a funding source that generates collaborative and strategic educational solutions between employers and related instruction training providers across Minnesota. Employers or organizations of employers may apply for grants to reimburse expenses related to instruction toward attaining an industry-recognized degree, certificate or credential for their employees.

Emerging Entrepreneur Loan Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Emerging Entrepreneur Loan Program provides loan capital for businesses that are owned and operated by minorities, low-income persons, women, veterans and/or persons with disabilities.

Farm Opportunity Loan Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Farm Opportunity Loan Program is designed to finance the purchase of equipment to add value to crops or livestock, adopt best management practices, reduce agricultural inputs to improve the environment, and increase on-farm energy production.

Greater Minnesota Job Expansion Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Greater Minnesota Job Expansion Program provides tax benefits to businesses located in Greater Minnesota that increase employment. Qualifying businesses that meet job-growth goals may receive sales tax refunds for purchases made during a seven-year period.

Greater Minnesota Public Infrastructure Grant Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Greater Minnesota Business Development Infrastructure Grant Program provides grants to cities of up to 50 percent of the capital costs of the public infrastructure necessary to expand or retain jobs in the area, increase the tax base, or expand or create new economic development.

Innovative Business Development Public Infrastructure (BDPI)

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The program provides grants to local governmental units on a competitive basis statewide. The amount of a grant may not exceed the lesser of the cost of the public infrastructure or 50 percent of the sum of the cost of the public infrastructure plus the cost of the completed eligible project.

Iron Range Regional Production Incentive Program

MINNESOTA FILM & TV

This program offers financial assistance in the form of a production rebate to eligible applicants to encourage the creation of film, television, and digital media content production in the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation™s service area (also known as the Taconite Assistance Area).

Job Skills Partnership Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Job Skills Partnership provides training grants of up to \$400,000 to educational institutions that partner with businesses to develop new-job training or retraining for existing employees.

Launch Minnesota Innovation Grants

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Launch Minnesota Innovation Grants are targeted to the most promising innovative scalable technology businesses in Minnesota.

Livestock Equipment Loan Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Loans may be used for the acquisition of equipment for animal housing, confinement, animal feeding, milk production and waste management.

Livestock Expansion Loan Program**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Livestock expansion means improvements to a livestock operation, including the purchase and construction or installation of improvements to land, buildings, and other permanent structures, including equipment incorporated in or permanently affixed to the land, buildings or structures, which are useful for and intended to be used for the purpose of raising livestock. The purchase of livestock is NOT an eligible purpose for this program.

Low Income Worker Training Program**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Low-Income Worker Training Program helps workers whose incomes are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines gain new skills necessary to move up the career ladder to higher paying jobs and greater economic self-sufficiency.

Methane Digester Loan Program**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

The MDA developed the Methane Digester Loan Program in 1998 to help supplement the funds needed for livestock producers in Minnesota to begin installing digesters on their farms.

Minnesota 21st Century Fund**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Minnesota 21st Century Fund makes loans or equity investments in innovative mineral, steel, or other industry processing, production, manufacturing, or technology projects located in the taconite relief tax area. The fund may also make grants to municipalities or counties for public infrastructure to support such projects.

Minnesota Investment Fund**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Minnesota Investment Fund provides financing to help add new workers and retain high-quality jobs on a statewide basis.

Minnesota Job Creation Fund

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Job Creation Fund provides financial incentives to new and expanding businesses that meet certain job creation and capital investment targets.

Minnesota Reservist And Veteran Business Loan Program**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Minnesota Reservist and Veteran Business Loan Program provides business loans to companies that are affected when certain employees are called to active military duty and to individual veterans who have returned from active duty and want to start their own business.

Native American Business Loan Program**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Minnesota Indian Business Loan Program supports the development of Indian-owned and operated businesses and promotes economic opportunities for Indian people throughout Minnesota.

Pathways Program**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Pathways program focuses on providing training, new jobs and career paths for people who have incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or those who are making a transition from public assistance to work.

Redevelopment Grant Program**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Redevelopment Grant Program helps communities with the costs of redeveloping blighted industrial, residential, or commercial sites and putting land back into productive use.

Research And Development Tax Credit**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

Companies that engage in certain research and development (R&D) activities in Minnesota may qualify for the Credit for Increasing Research Activities.

Restructure II Loan Program**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

The Restructure II loan program is designed to help farmers refined their debt of an agricultural nature.

Scitechspereience Internship Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SciTechspereience is a paid internship program that connects college students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines with rewarding hands-on opportunities at Minnesota companies that need their skills.

Seed Capital Investment Credit Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The SEED Capital Investment Program provides tax incentives for investing in innovative business located in the Minnesota border cities of Breckenridge, Dilworth, East Grand Forks, Moorhead, and Ortonville.

Seller Assisted Loan Participation Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Seller Assisted farm ownership program is a cooperative financing effort involving a buyer, a seller, a local lender, and the Minnesota Rural Finance Authority (RFA).

St. Louis County

MINNESOTA FILM & TV

The St Louis County, MN Production Incentive Program offers financial assistance in the form of a production rebate to certified applicants to encourage the creation of film, television and digital media content in St Louis County and to foster the local organic growth of the production industry talent and workforce.

STEP Grant Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The STEP program provides financial and technical assistance to qualifying Minnesota small businesses with an active interest in exporting products or services to foreign markets.

Transportation Economic Development Infrastructure (TEDI) Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Transportation Economic Development Infrastructure Program (TEDI) is a competitive grant program available to communities for road and public infrastructure projects that create jobs and support economic development.

Transportation Revolving Loan Fund

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Revolving Loan Fund (TRLF) provides financing to state, local and other government entities for transportation projects approved by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Value Added Stock Loan Program

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Value Added Stock Loan Program provides financing to farmers seeking to invest in downstream, value-added agricultural industries that source their product from Minnesota farmers.