

Proposed by:

## **Southwest Minnesota Council of Mayors**

Pilot Program to retain and attract workforce in Southwest Minnesota through supporting technical education / Training for targeted occupations.

Program modeled after "Build South Dakota"

Proposed 8 targeted occupations based on input from employers and EDA's in SW Minnesota and training capacity of Minnesota West Community and Technical Colleges.

Targeted Occupations expected to include the following trades:

Carpentry	Plumbing
HVAC	Auto Tech
Mechatronics	Ag Diesel
Automotive	Electrician

Support Details:

- Enrollment at Minnesota West Technical and Community College
- Course of Study one of eight targeted Occupations / Trades
- Tuition payment of a maximum of \$8,000 per year for two-year course of study.
- Commitment to work in the targeted occupation in Southwest Minnesota for a minimum of three years.
- Repayment: Structured as a 3 year "Forgivable Loan" to the student. Each year is forgiven as long as the student is living and working in SW Minnesota.
- Funding request: Five-year Pilot program funded through State funding of \$600,000 per year to be combined with locally leveraged funds of \$150,000. Total request: 3 Million Dollar investment.
- Fiscal Agent to hold and administer this program remains to be named at this point

About the Southwest Minnesota Council of Mayors. Formalized in 2022, The Southwest Minnesota Council of Mayors focuses on advocating for and sharing solutions for issues impacting Southwest Minnesota.

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