

Subject County grants for Community Career Workforce Academies

Authors Marquart

Analyst Jared Swanson

Date March 14, 2022

Overview

Establishes a onetime appropriation of \$40,000,000 for grants to counties to establish or support a Community Career Workforce Academy within the county. Community Career Workforce Academies must deliver instruction to students to prepare them for high-demand careers and retrain current workers who are unemployed or underemployed. Counties may apply to the commissioner of employment and economic development for a grant of up to \$10,000,000. The commissioner of employment and economic development must rate applications, determine award amounts, and certify those amounts to the commissioner of revenue, who must make payment of the grants to counties.

Summary

Section	Description
---------	-------------

1	County grants for Community Career Workforce Academies.
---	----------------------------------------------------------------

Subd. 1. Purpose. States that the purpose of this section is to help local governments address the state's workforce shortage by funding collaborative public-private efforts that create a strong pipeline of workers in high-demand areas and upskilling the current workforce with an emphasis on minority populations, new Minnesota residents, and underskilled workers.

Subd. 2. Establishment. Outlines six core benefits that Community Career Workforce Academies must deliver to students:

- 1) a rigorous, relevant education in grades 9 to postsecondary, inclusive, focused on high-wage, high-demand careers;
- 2) workplace learning that includes career exploration activities such as mentoring by industry professionals, worksite visits, speakers, and internships;
- 3) intensive, individualized academic support by both secondary and postsecondary faculty within an extended academic year or school day that enables students to progress through the program at their own pace;

Section	Description
---------	-------------

- 4) an opportunity to earn a postsecondary credential or degree;
- 5) a commitment to students who complete the program to be first in line for a job with participating business partners following completion of the program; and
- 6) upskilling the current adult workforce with an emphasis on minority populations, new Minnesota residents, underskilled workers, and those who are unemployed or underemployed.

Subd. 3. Objectives. Requires that students at Community Career Workforce Academies be able to earn credit toward a postsecondary credential or degree. This subdivision also requires Community Career Workforce Academies to accomplish the following:

- 1) develop programs of study in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand career areas for students and adults while addressing the workforce shortage;
- 2) align school, college, and community systems in the programs of study developed under this section;
- 3) support strong academic performance by program participants;
- 4) promote informed and appropriate career exploration choices and preparation; and
- 5) ensure that employers in key technical and high-demand fields and occupations have access to a talented and skilled workforce.

Subd. 4. Application. Allows counties to apply to the commissioner of employment and economic development for grants to be used to establish or support a Community Career Workforce Academy. Applications must be submitted by January 31, 2023. The commissioner must determine which counties will receive grants and certify those grant amounts to the commissioner of revenue by March 31, 2023. Grants must not exceed \$10,000,000. The applications must be rated on:

- 1) the ability for the county to provide adequate facilities for a Community Career Workforce Academy;
- 2) the ability for the academy to provide adequate programming;
- 3) the ability for the academy in the county to meet the objectives in subdivisions 2 and 3; and
- 4) a regional workforce and talent plan.

Subd. 5. Use of grants. Requires that counties receiving grants under this section use the funds to establish or support a Community Career Workforce Academy. The county or a designee must administer the grant.

Section	Description
---------	-------------

Subd. 6. Appropriation. Provides a onetime appropriation of \$40,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 for grants to counties under this section. Of this amount, \$30,000,000 must be used for grants certified by the commissioner of employment and economic development under subdivision 4, and \$10,000,000 must be used for a grant to Clay County for support of the Moorhead Career Workforce Academy.

Subd. 7. Grants. Requires the commissioner of revenue to pay grant amounts to counties under this section. This section also exempts grants from certain grant making requirements, with those exemptions expiring on June 30, 2023.

Subd. 8. Report. Requires the commissioner of employment and economic development to report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over economic development policy and finance and taxes on the effectiveness of Community Career Workforce Academies in meeting the objectives of subdivisions 2 and 3.



Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155