



Report to the Dakota County Board of Commissioners 2025



WorkForce Development Board

Jobs for People, People for Jobs.

Client Success Story



Monica first visited the CareerLab after sharing she had recently applied for economic assistance.

Staff let her know about the various CareerForce services available and that same day worked with her to revise her resume.

She attended a hiring event a few days later and now works at an area bank in the mortgage approvals department.

- The Workforce Development Board
- The Programs/Services
- Changes
- Looking Forward



WDB Mission/Vision

Mission

The Dakota-Scott WDB leads, collaborates and provides linkages that facilitate equity-informed workforce planning and supports economic development providing individuals, families, employers and the community opportunities to transform lives through meaningful employment.

Vision

To be an inclusive and equitable workforce development system that benefits employers and job seekers so that:

- residents have the competencies, employment skills, and education to support themselves and their families, and
- employers will have access to the skilled and educated workforce necessary to remain competitive in a dynamic global economy.

WDB's Plan of Work

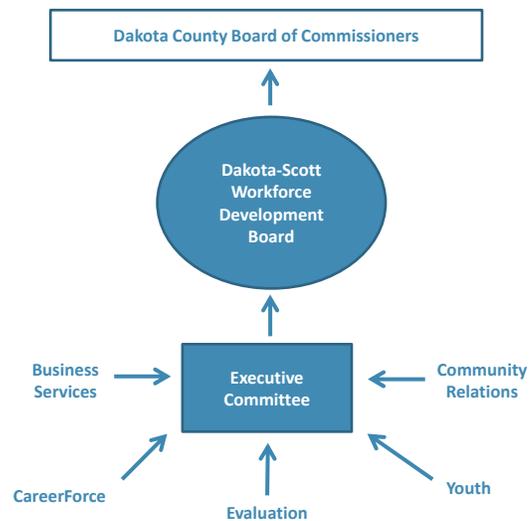


- Effectively match employer needs with employee skills (for the economic vitality of the community).
- Convene business, community groups, and educators/trainers to facilitate collaboration between these groups to advance employment opportunities.
- Be the recognized expert and voice on addressing local workforce solutions.

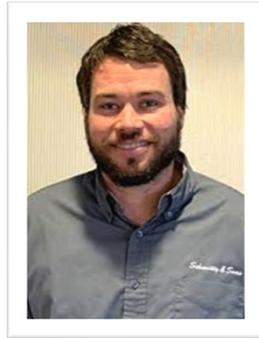
The WDB



- 27 members – more than ½ from private sector
- Dakota County Board is the fiscal agent; makes appointments to the WDB
- Joint powers agreement with Scott County
- Work done through 6 committees



WDB Leadership



Mike Forbord
Schmitt & Sons
WDB Chair



Jennifer Harmening
Burnsville Chamber of Commerce
WDB Vice-Chair

Impact



A little help from a CareerForce counselor goes a long way!

A client enrolled in the Dislocated Worker program in June 2024 after being laid-off from her position as area manager in a health care setting. As a single parent she needed to find employment as soon as possible!

Her CareerForce counselor:

- Discussed training opportunities with her;
- Helped her update her resume; and
- Encouraged her to attend the CareerForce Resume Writing and LinkedIn workshops.

All of the help she received quickly led to her securing an Operational Program Director position **earning almost 10% more** than her previous wage.

CareerForce Sites & Services



Burnsville



West St. Paul



Shakopee

Universal Services

- CareerLab
- Workshops

Eligibility Programs

- Dislocated Worker
- Minnesota Family Investment Program
- Youth
- Disabilities
- Veterans
- Adult Basic Education



Burnsville CFC Ribbon Cutting

2024 Awards Celebration Winners



Mark McAfee Friend of Workforce Development Award

Tim Zunker, Shakopee Chamber & Visitors Bureau, Shakopee

Bob Killeen Award

Dalsin Industries, Lakeville

Business Champion Award

Lena Garcia, Minnesota Department of Transportation

Bob Klas Sr. Entrepreneur Award

Mark Reese, B-52 Burgers and Brew, Lakeville

Employer of the Year for People with Disabilities Award

Grant VanWyngaeren and Neil Byce, CW Metals, Lakeville

Willis E. Branning Excellence in Youth Employment Services Award – Dakota County

Abbie Torbert, BTM Manufacturing, Lakeville

Willis E. Branning Excellence in Youth Employment Services Award – Scott County

Kim Wodtke, Scott Carver Dakota CAP Agency Food Shelf, Shakopee

Eye on the Future!



- WDB Committee Plan of Work Overview
- National Association of Workforce Boards Conference Update
- Tree Trust Branches Apprenticeship Program
- Chamber of Commerce Presidents Panel
- Insights from Workforce Board Members
- DEED Vocational Rehabilitation Services Changes
- Clarity and Insights About Federal and State Legislation
- Labor Market Information
- Updates from Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
- Outlook on 2024 Elections – Workforce Focus
- Housing – Availability, Cost, Challenges and Opportunities
- Transit in Dakota and Scott Counties

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Who We Serve



Youth

Minnesota Youth Program, WIOA Youth Program
Construct Tomorrow
Teen Job Fair – Apple Valley

Adults

State & Federal Dislocated Workers
MFIP – low income

Employers

Hiring Events

Earned Sick and Safe Time & Paid
Family Medical Leave Act

Working with Chambers and Cities

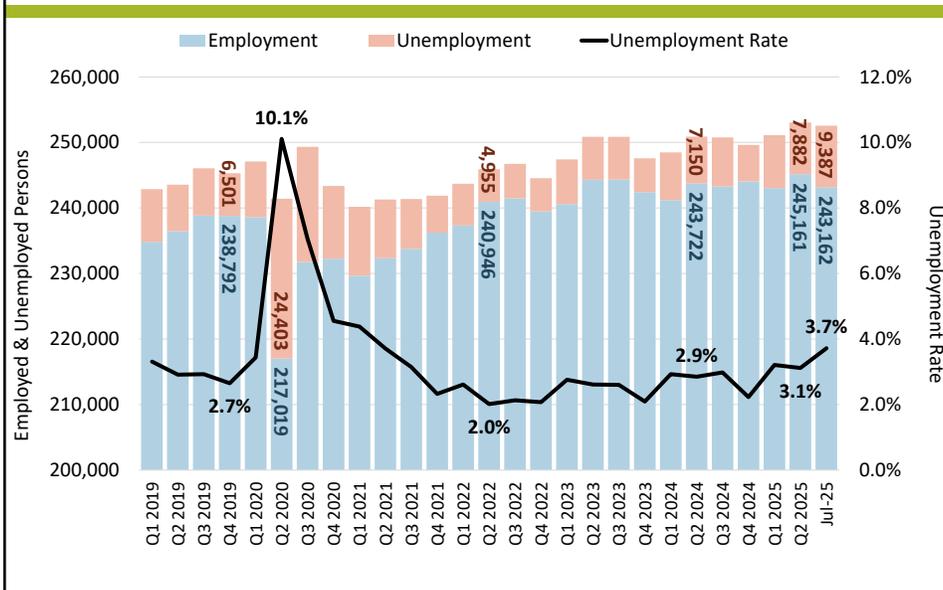


The Economy

- Lay-offs Increasing
- Moderate Increase in Traffic

Dakota County's labor market situation

Local Area Unemployment Statistics: 2019 – 2025



2025/2026 – Key Items



- **The Economy and Job Market**
- **State and Federal Legislation**
- **Focus on Short-term and Long-Term Solutions**
 - Direct Care Jobs
 - Family-sustaining
- **Artificial Intelligence**
- **Workforce Connectivity, Partnerships & Resources**
 - Job seekers and employers
 - Employers
 - Area Non-Profits
- **Impact of 2023 State Legislation**
 - Cannabis
 - Family, Medical Leave Act
- **Workforce Barriers**
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Child care
 - Education

Questions?



** Request for Board Action **

Proclamation of September as...

Workforce Development Month

***Thank you for
your support!***





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