

OPPOSE DEED's Proposal to Merge Greater Minnesota Grant Program (BDPI) with Bio Business Grant Program

DEED has proposed to merge the BDPI with a Bio Business grant program, with the merged program available to local units of government statewide. DEED offers this proposal despite the fact that **the BDPI program is extremely successful as a stand-alone grant under current law, having created approximately 2,370 jobs since 2003.**

DEED's proposal may weaken greater Minnesota's economic recovery by potentially directing critical resources away from greater Minnesota. This is ill-advised, particularly in light of greater Minnesota's economic struggles.

<i>In Greater Minnesota</i>	<i>In the Metro Area</i>
7.4% of employers in greater Minnesota were expecting to <i>increase</i> employment.	14.1% of employers expect to <i>increase</i> employment in the metro area.
6.4% of employers in greater Minnesota plan to <i>decrease</i> their current employment levels.	3.7% of employers in the metro area are expecting to <i>decrease</i> employment.
In greater Minnesota, there are 8.3 unemployed people per job vacancy.	There are 7.2 unemployed people per job vacancy in the metro area.
22 counties in greater Minnesota had an unemployment rate above 8%; 8 counties were above 9%.	Only 1 county in the metro area had an unemployment rate above 8% (Anoka).
56% of counties outside the metro area experienced a decline in population since 2002.	The 7-county metro area experienced a 6.0% increase.
The average yearly wage in greater Minnesota in 2008 was \$34,410 .	The metro average was \$52,392 .

Source: Minnesota Jobs Vacancy Survey; DEED

***The Right Approach: Keep the BDPI grant separate and fully fund it.
If it ain't broke, don't fix it.***