Good afternoon community leaders,

People in Minnesota and around the world have watched the events unfolding in Afghanistan over the past week with grief and sadness. Yesterday, Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan sent an official letter for President Biden regarding the recent news surrounding Afghan refugees. They solidified their commitment to ensuring Minnesota remains a place where people from all backgrounds are free to seek refuge and safety. As such, the state is ready to assist with the resettlement of Afghan individuals and families. You can read the Governor and Lieutenant Governor’s full letter [**here**.](http://mn.gov/governor/news/index.jsp?id=1055-494725)

**Final Reminder: Get Your COVID-19 Shot. Get $100!**

This is a **final reminder** that people in Minnesota 12 years of age and older who receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will be eligible for a $100 Visa gift card to spend however they choose. This incentive program ends **Sunday, August 22.** People experiencing homelessness and staff working in settings supporting them are eligible.

People can request their reward through **Sunday, August 22**. Reward requests must be submitted by **11:59 p.m**. on **Sunday, August 22, 2021**. Vaccination will be subject to verification by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

To get vaccinated, you can:

* Walk in or make an appointment through the Vaccine Connector at [vaccineconnector.mn.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ft.e2ma.net%2Fclick%2Fr17c7c%2Ffgfjopr%2F32szri&data=04%7C01%7CAdele.Hebl.C19%40state.mn.us%7C9ac6830be80847a908fd08d9641ec1e4%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637650905528853259%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5Kkv795Z46y3CLIJ1xMsT%2FkySOaRjVwEDhBUQuXQ4w0%3D&reserved=0).
* Call the MDH COVID-19 Public Hotline at 1.833.431.2053, **Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.** and **Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**
* Use the state’s Vaccine Locator Map to find a vaccine provider near you at [mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/find-vaccine](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ft.e2ma.net%2Fclick%2Fr17c7c%2Ffgfjopr%2Fjvtzri&data=04%7C01%7CAdele.Hebl.C19%40state.mn.us%7C9ac6830be80847a908fd08d9641ec1e4%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637650905528853259%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=L%2BNfijJRgmzoTrgYdr83bppixg0XUplpYnNNvtO2tWk%3D&reserved=0).
* Contact your primary health care provider or a local pharmacy.
* Employers may also reach out with information about vaccination opportunities.

Anyone who gets their first dose between **Friday, July 30 and Sunday, August 22** can visit [mn.gov/covid19/100](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ft.e2ma.net%2Fclick%2Fr17c7c%2Ffgfjopr%2Fznuzri&data=04%7C01%7CAdele.Hebl.C19%40state.mn.us%7C9ac6830be80847a908fd08d9641ec1e4%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637650905528853259%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=owKjQ4SofV4tv3C124grpn1NXERRKBCT%2FUOLEkZEZsg%3D&reserved=0) to claim their reward. When you get your shot and claim your reward, you must provide the same address where you can receive mail; it does not have to be a permanent address.

The incentive information, and a link to register for the vaccine, is also available in [Hmong](https://mn.gov/covid19/100/100-hm.jsp), [Oromo](https://mn.gov/covid19/100/100-or.jsp), [Soomaali/Somali](https://mn.gov/covid19/100/100-sm.jsp), and [Español/Spanish](https://mn.gov/covid19/100/100-es.jsp).

**Free Child Care for Those Getting COVID-19 Vaccines**

Four childcare providers- [Bright Horizons,](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA4MDQuNDQxMTY4MzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2djYzAyLnNhZmVsaW5rcy5wcm90ZWN0aW9uLm91dGxvb2suY29tLz91cmw9aHR0cHMlM0ElMkYlMkZ3d3cuYnJpZ2h0aG9yaXpvbnMuY29tJTJGJmRhdGE9MDQlN0MwMSU3Q0JyZW5kYS5TYW5jaGV6JTQwc3RhdGUubW4udXMlN0M2OTQ1ZWFmYWM4MGM0OTRiNzJhZTA4ZDk1NWUyZTM2NSU3Q2ViMTRiMDQ2MjRjNDQ1MTk4ZjI2Yjg5YzIxNTk4MjhjJTdDMCU3QzAlN0M2Mzc2MzUyNTUyMjIzMDM3MjglN0NVbmtub3duJTdDVFdGcGJHWnNiM2Q4ZXlKV0lqb2lNQzR3TGpBd01EQWlMQ0pRSWpvaVYybHVNeklpTENKQlRpSTZJazFoYVd3aUxDSlhWQ0k2TW4wJTNEJTdDMTAwMCZzZGF0YT04VVJlcFVaZnp0OGZ6SU91d0VLekdrS0g3ZXEzVUJrYjR3b01tM1NFc0w0JTNEJnJlc2VydmVkPTAifQ.yVF-c4H_eYzLQc75zJWAX6gjB_gEFSk7TlvMsolB2Fg/s/980797174/br/110380220748-l) [KinderCare](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA4MDQuNDQxMTY4MzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2djYzAyLnNhZmVsaW5rcy5wcm90ZWN0aW9uLm91dGxvb2suY29tLz91cmw9aHR0cHMlM0ElMkYlMkZ3d3cua2luZGVyY2FyZS5jb20lMkYmZGF0YT0wNCU3QzAxJTdDQnJlbmRhLlNhbmNoZXolNDBzdGF0ZS5tbi51cyU3QzY5NDVlYWZhYzgwYzQ5NGI3MmFlMDhkOTU1ZTJlMzY1JTdDZWIxNGIwNDYyNGM0NDUxOThmMjZiODljMjE1OTgyOGMlN0MwJTdDMCU3QzYzNzYzNTI1NTIyMjMwMzcyOCU3Q1Vua25vd24lN0NUV0ZwYkdac2IzZDhleUpXSWpvaU1DNHdMakF3TURBaUxDSlFJam9pVjJsdU16SWlMQ0pCVGlJNklrMWhhV3dpTENKWFZDSTZNbjAlM0QlN0MxMDAwJnNkYXRhPU9yc2pTOXFsdHNpQjZmUU5uJTJCa0tJbkNuRzRqd1AxTHFkSnhsUzlrS0Y0USUzRCZyZXNlcnZlZD0wIn0.vYqMhI2R9s5DRMOsHOeYM6tLnyiEN08djx6kr8BqER4/s/980797174/br/110380220748-l), [Learning Care Group](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA4MDQuNDQxMTY4MzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2djYzAyLnNhZmVsaW5rcy5wcm90ZWN0aW9uLm91dGxvb2suY29tLz91cmw9aHR0cHMlM0ElMkYlMkZ3d3cubGVhcm5pbmdjYXJlZ3JvdXAuY29tJTJGJmRhdGE9MDQlN0MwMSU3Q0JyZW5kYS5TYW5jaGV6JTQwc3RhdGUubW4udXMlN0M2OTQ1ZWFmYWM4MGM0OTRiNzJhZTA4ZDk1NWUyZTM2NSU3Q2ViMTRiMDQ2MjRjNDQ1MTk4ZjI2Yjg5YzIxNTk4MjhjJTdDMCU3QzAlN0M2Mzc2MzUyNTUyMjIzMTM2NzklN0NVbmtub3duJTdDVFdGcGJHWnNiM2Q4ZXlKV0lqb2lNQzR3TGpBd01EQWlMQ0pRSWpvaVYybHVNeklpTENKQlRpSTZJazFoYVd3aUxDSlhWQ0k2TW4wJTNEJTdDMTAwMCZzZGF0YT13SG9zaDhPRGhlSGJQZ3JCcHl0Z1hzaEtGdHhJOElSRFZRNzE2ak85NHM0JTNEJnJlc2VydmVkPTAifQ.pQI-BqTYpi6WVv7Vwy_VBSINIkx54E7EeY13giJ_Uys/s/980797174/br/110380220748-l), and the [YMCA](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA4MDQuNDQxMTY4MzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2djYzAyLnNhZmVsaW5rcy5wcm90ZWN0aW9uLm91dGxvb2suY29tLz91cmw9aHR0cHMlM0ElMkYlMkZ3d3cueW1jYW5vcnRoLm9yZyUyRmNob29zZS15b3VyLWNoaWxkLWNhcmUmZGF0YT0wNCU3QzAxJTdDQnJlbmRhLlNhbmNoZXolNDBzdGF0ZS5tbi51cyU3QzY5NDVlYWZhYzgwYzQ5NGI3MmFlMDhkOTU1ZTJlMzY1JTdDZWIxNGIwNDYyNGM0NDUxOThmMjZiODljMjE1OTgyOGMlN0MwJTdDMCU3QzYzNzYzNTI1NTIyMjMxMzY3OSU3Q1Vua25vd24lN0NUV0ZwYkdac2IzZDhleUpXSWpvaU1DNHdMakF3TURBaUxDSlFJam9pVjJsdU16SWlMQ0pCVGlJNklrMWhhV3dpTENKWFZDSTZNbjAlM0QlN0MxMDAwJnNkYXRhPUREd1VJNDZJZkxWJTJCYjdXU29zS21tY1h4Nm5xem52dFZ3SDMxWFVhbERZOCUzRCZyZXNlcnZlZD0wIn0.lLl7o-ijXjgRXt6jb03pd3-mkwZ_vTij3Iw4kHz1pSg/s/980797174/br/110380220748-l) - are continuing to provide free drop in child care for parents and caregivers getting vaccinated through Labor Day **(September 6).**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has shareable flyers to promote the free child care service in [English](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwecandothis.hhs.gov%2Ffree-child-care-while-getting-vaccinated&data=04%7C01%7CAdele.Hebl.C19%40state.mn.us%7C9ac6830be80847a908fd08d9641ec1e4%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637650905528863220%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=jBZHElbalUo9aAKev0GQC61sS%2BHN7m0k2ejrNBmg3qY%3D&reserved=0) and [Español/Spanish](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwecandothis.hhs.gov%2Ffree-child-care-available-while-you-get-vaccinated-spanish&data=04%7C01%7CAdele.Hebl.C19%40state.mn.us%7C9ac6830be80847a908fd08d9641ec1e4%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637650905528863220%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=u0Q0B4UyCM8xHMeqMJ4%2B24k3DJdP8kH%2FaylALm78d4M%3D&reserved=0).

**Apply for a State Job or Commission Position!**

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor are seeking qualified individuals who are passionate about using their knowledge, skills, and lived experiences to serve Minnesota. State boards and commissions do important work that includes protecting the public, licensing, and regulating professions, and advising policymakers. With over 100 boards and commissions covering topics from architecture to the Zoo, there are hundreds of opportunities annually. A list of boards and commissions, including open positions, can be found on the Minnesota Secretary of State's [website](https://www.sos.state.mn.us/boards-commissions/). If you have any questions on the process or how to get involved, feel free to reach out to the Appointments Team at gov.appointments@state.mn.us.

Additionally, below are examples of job openings within state government:

* **Gambling Control Board Executive Director –** This highly visible position reports to the Governor of Minnesota and is in the unclassified service. The Director plans, coordinates, and directs the regulation, licensing, compliance, and educational operations of the Gambling Control Board.Applications accepted through August 30, 2021 on the [state jobs portal](https://careers.mn.gov/psp/hcm92apc/MNCAREERS/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_APP_SCHJOB.GBL?Page=HRS_APP_JBPST&FOCUS=Applicant&SiteId=1001&JobOpeningId=47635&PostingSeq=1&languageCd=ENG). (Job ID 47635)
* **Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities –** The Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities protects the rights of people with mental health needs and developmental disabilities through individual and systemic advocacy. Applications accepted through September 1, 2021 on the [state jobs portal](https://careers.mn.gov/psp/hcm92apc/MNCAREERS/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_APP_SCHJOB.GBL?Page=HRS_APP_JBPST&FOCUS=Applicant&SiteId=1001&JobOpeningId=48035&PostingSeq=1&languageCd=ENG). (Job ID 48035)
* **Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) –** MPCA is a state agency committed to ensuring that every Minnesotan has healthy air, sustainable lands, clean water, and a better climate. Through the authority of state and federal statutes and guidelines, the agency focuses on preventing and reducing the pollution of air, land, and water, and leads Minnesota’s efforts to protect against the devastating effects of climate change. An individual wishing to apply should submit a cover letter and resume to gov.appointments@state.mn.us. Application materials are due by Friday, August 27, 2021, and should be addressed to Governor Tim Walz. Applicants may contact gov.appointments@state.mn.us or 651-201-3400 with questions or to request reasonable accommodations.

**DEED Competitive Contract/Grant Opportunities**

The Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has several [current competitive contract and grant opportunities](https://mn.gov/deed/about/contracts/open-rfp.jsp).

DEED is currently recruiting community members to serve as grant reviewers for adult and youth workforce development training grants during the summer and fall of 2021. If you're interested, learn more on DEED’s [website](https://mn.gov/deed/about/contracts/reviewers.jsp).

The Employment and Training Division at DEED is soliciting proposals for grant funding for the following programs:

* [African Immigrant Community Grant Program](https://mn.gov/deed/assets/african-immigrant-rfp_tcm1045-491788.pdf)

DEED hosted an informational webinar to provide potential applicants with an overview of the programs and to answer any questions. [View the recording](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fintercall.webex.com%2Fintercall%2Fldr.php%3FRCID%3D10352b191793d8ee009287f0e14e083c&data=04%7C01%7CAdele.Hebl.C19%40state.mn.us%7C9ac6830be80847a908fd08d9641ec1e4%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637650905528873174%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=gARYAZE8bns1awuaAWRk0cg9DEYLUbEggXaej25aJJA%3D&reserved=0).

* [Southeast Asian Economic Disparities Grant Program](https://mn.gov/deed/assets/se-asian-rfp_tcm1045-491787.pdf)

DEED hosted an informational webinar to provide potential applicants with an overview of the programs and to answer any questions. [View the recording](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fintercall.webex.com%2Fintercall%2Fldr.php%3FRCID%3D9a08b00aa7b4ae0d7453c90762028b36&data=04%7C01%7CAdele.Hebl.C19%40state.mn.us%7C9ac6830be80847a908fd08d9641ec1e4%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637650905528873174%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=96RDY%2F95kud%2FHkPHn%2BRqKMKODhor6Zz98OobryDMOiY%3D&reserved=0).

* Pathways to Prosperity Grants

DEED hosted an informational webinar to provide potential applicants with an overview of the programs and to answer any questions. [View the recording](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fintercall.webex.com%2Fintercall%2Fldr.php%3FRCID%3D053c7794d1426463741d966192ce147f&data=04%7C01%7CAdele.Hebl.C19%40state.mn.us%7C9ac6830be80847a908fd08d9641ec1e4%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637650905528883132%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=lIjGGT8ZDT6%2B0jCKFVVM%2BTNuhbfGOlQN2Ow%2BUzxLYdc%3D&reserved=0).

* + [On Ramp to Career Pathways Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJlbWFpbCI6ImtpcmsuY3Jvd3Nob2VAc3RhdGUubW4udXMiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoiMTAyIiwic3Vic2NyaWJlcl9pZCI6IjUwMDI5NTA0OSIsImxpbmtfaWQiOiIxNTA3ODIzNTA3IiwidXJpIjoiYnAyOmRpZ2VzdCIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vbW4uZ292L2RlZWQvYXNzZXRzL29uLXJhbXAtcmZwX3RjbTEwNDUtNDkxNzg2LnBkZiIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA3MjkuNDM4NjY5ODEifQ.c9kqrdD2VRHy6kznxmNiZvzByYZcrddl-n6UyVgPivk)
	+ [Bridge to Career Pathways Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJlbWFpbCI6ImtpcmsuY3Jvd3Nob2VAc3RhdGUubW4udXMiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoiMTAzIiwic3Vic2NyaWJlcl9pZCI6IjUwMDI5NTA0OSIsImxpbmtfaWQiOiIxNTA3ODIzNTExIiwidXJpIjoiYnAyOmRpZ2VzdCIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vbW4uZ292L2RlZWQvYXNzZXRzL2JyaWRnZS1yZnBfdGNtMTA0NS00OTE3ODUucGRmIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIxMDcyOS40Mzg2Njk4MSJ9.m_IPncyGaiK0iEUQcFtt8MpEAX1DGf0CYv3NXqPSJu4)
	+ [Individualized Training Pathways Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJlbWFpbCI6ImtpcmsuY3Jvd3Nob2VAc3RhdGUubW4udXMiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoiMTA0Iiwic3Vic2NyaWJlcl9pZCI6IjUwMDI5NTA0OSIsImxpbmtfaWQiOiIxNTA3ODIzNTE1IiwidXJpIjoiYnAyOmRpZ2VzdCIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vbW4uZ292L2RlZWQvYXNzZXRzL2luZGl2aWR1YWxpemVkLXRyYWluaW5nLXJmcF90Y20xMDQ1LTQ5MTc4NC5wZGYiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjEwNzI5LjQzODY2OTgxIn0.khoY_XjMKNr1Zzz7hdPnI0oNwq5d5uoIeV13Z-DCY7Q)

The deadline for the submission of applications is **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14**.

**INPUT NEEDED: American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery Fund (ARPA)**

There is still time to let us know what you support and why!

Do you have ideas about how Minnesota's federal COVID response funds should be spent? Please complete [this form](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2Fpages%2Fresponsepage.aspx%3Fid%3DRrAU68QkGUWPJricIVmCjBsfeAiuduxCkDwYdAjyK9VUMDUyNUc1RklTMkdORTk3SzFWWEE4NE5JRC4u&data=04%7C01%7CAdele.Hebl.C19%40state.mn.us%7C9ac6830be80847a908fd08d9641ec1e4%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637650905528883132%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=piqvtsAf44PmuhzPIny6%2BUZWKg48jFkj0OQNv3WPP4U%3D&reserved=0) to share your ideas with Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, and state agencies as part of the supplemental budget decision process. Translated versions of this form are now available in [Hmoob/Hmong,](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2FPages%2FResponsePage.aspx%3Fid%3DRrAU68QkGUWPJricIVmCjBHbYAIyB-pKu0Qr0WwIsxNUQjI2SFozSlcxQ1pHNEZQS0VYVTJQTUNPRC4u&data=04%7C01%7CAdele.Hebl.C19%40state.mn.us%7C9ac6830be80847a908fd08d9641ec1e4%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637650905528893086%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6mYehtW1kBlEvWavKbVRmUTbL6Etcyds4ybfg3IHLRQ%3D&reserved=0) [Español/Spanish](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2FPages%2FResponsePage.aspx%3Fid%3DRrAU68QkGUWPJricIVmCjBHbYAIyB-pKu0Qr0WwIsxNUQVRTNlpCQ1lVSTdHNDVHUlRORUlKOUdHSy4u&data=04%7C01%7CAdele.Hebl.C19%40state.mn.us%7C9ac6830be80847a908fd08d9641ec1e4%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637650905528893086%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=OC8NyNUGYBIIaSwVOq9UfnKVT6XHqWPSZXa0z3QYxKo%3D&reserved=0), and [Soomaali/Somali](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2FPages%2FResponsePage.aspx%3Fid%3DRrAU68QkGUWPJricIVmCjBHbYAIyB-pKu0Qr0WwIsxNUMEdIMDBGT1VNRUFPWVBBN0NEWDVNMERIQS4u&data=04%7C01%7CAdele.Hebl.C19%40state.mn.us%7C9ac6830be80847a908fd08d9641ec1e4%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637650905528903049%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=PftXyBbNZwcEAdrFiCrJ7I0lz44skUMMON9CwUy4u7w%3D&reserved=0). The submission period for public suggestions will close on **September 17**.

Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) created an [American Rescue Plan website](https://mn.gov/mmb/arp/) with information on the Local, State, and Federal Fiscal Recovery Funds. People can navigate this website to learn more about how the ARP funds are allocated within their communities and across the state.

**Extended Application Period for Energy Assistance Program**

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, the Department of Commerce has an unprecedented amount of funding for Energy Assistance - an additional $167 million – and people can apply for Energy Assistance throughout the year.

The Energy Assistance Program can help both eligible renters and homeowners by:

* Paying up to $1,600 for energy bills
* Providing more assistance, if needed for past due bills, to avoid disconnection, or get reconnected
* Repairing or replacing homeowners’ furnaces
* Providing referrals to the Weatherization Assistance Program for free home improvements to conserve energy and lower future energy bills.

[Here](http://mn.gov/commerce-stat/pdfs/2021-07_Energy_Assistance_Prog_communication_toolkit_English.pdf) is the link to the July 2021 Energy Assistance Program communication toolkits, to provide you with information to share on social media, in your emails and newsletters, on your website and anywhere else you could share. The toolkit is also available in [Spanish](http://mn.gov/commerce-stat/pdfs/2021-07_Energy_Assistance_Prog_communication_toolkit_Spanish.pdf), [Somali](http://mn.gov/commerce-stat/pdfs/2021-07_Energy_Assistance_Prog_communication_toolkit_Somali.pdf), [Hmong](http://mn.gov/commerce-stat/pdfs/2021-07_Energy_Assistance_Prog_communication_toolkit_Hmong.pdf), and [Vietnamese](http://mn.gov/commerce-stat/pdfs/2021-07_Energy_Assistance_Prog_communication_toolkit_Vietnamese.pdf).

These materials are also posted on Commerce’s Energy Assistance Program web page,  [mn.gov/commerce/eap.jsp](https://mn.gov/commerce/eap.jsp).

If you have questions about the Energy Assistance Program, please contact eap.mail@state.mn.us.

If you have questions about the communication toolkits, please contact the Commerce Communications Director, Mo Schriner, at mo.schriner@state.mn.us.

**Preschool Development Grant Updates**

The [Preschool Development Grant](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA4MDQuNDQxMTY4MzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2VkdWNhdGlvbi5tbi5nb3YvTURFL2RzZS9lYXJseS9wcmVzY2hnci8ifQ.IaYK8pN8GNVy9lU-8BcqVI5vIZKt31nrwZOK1iELk8A/s/980797174/br/110380220748-l)is half-way through the federal renewal grant. In partnership with the Minnesota Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services, and [Children’s Cabinet](https://mn.gov/mmb/childrens-cabinet/), the grant aims to align education and care systems across the state and improve access to services and support for families with young children to help them thrive.

Come to the town hall to learn more how the team is doing early childhood system change and engaging with the community. There will be an overview of the grant projects and Q&A. The town hall will take place on **Wednesday,** **October 13 at 10 am**, and [you can register here](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA4MDQuNDQxMTY4MzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2djYzAyLnNhZmVsaW5rcy5wcm90ZWN0aW9uLm91dGxvb2suY29tLz91cmw9aHR0cHMlM0ElMkYlMkZ3d3cuem9vbWdvdi5jb20lMkZtZWV0aW5nJTJGcmVnaXN0ZXIlMkZ2SklzZC1tcHBqTXBIWDRCOXZHTDVBMFY2WERKb0kxWkdvUSZkYXRhPTA0JTdDMDElN0NCcmVuZGEuU2FuY2hleiU0MHN0YXRlLm1uLnVzJTdDYmU0ZGFkZmRmODFlNGZhNTBmNTcwOGQ5NTI1OWFiMDQlN0NlYjE0YjA0NjI0YzQ0NTE5OGYyNmI4OWMyMTU5ODI4YyU3QzAlN0MwJTdDNjM3NjMxMzY3MzM5OTE5MDE3JTdDVW5rbm93biU3Q1RXRnBiR1pzYjNkOGV5SldJam9pTUM0d0xqQXdNREFpTENKUUlqb2lWMmx1TXpJaUxDSkJUaUk2SWsxaGFXd2lMQ0pYVkNJNk1uMCUzRCU3QzEwMDAmc2RhdGE9UnRsRG5qcllQcVd2UGpnSGhTdWpIQkczR1hueURuJTJCSEFFd1RFQWlsek9VJTNEJnJlc2VydmVkPTAifQ.Yw7dQ1hqHre0n3H3HiGuTnREZa-GG3T_rv8ORzUr92A/s/980797174/br/110380220748-l).

Want to learn more about the Preschool Development Grant or the importance of changing early childhood systems to improve the lives of families and communities? Watch this [animated video](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA4MDQuNDQxMTY4MzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2VkdWNhdGlvbi5tbi5nb3YvTURFL1ZpZGVvTmV3Lz9ncm91cD1Db21tdW5pY2F0aW9ucyZpZD1wcm9kMDQ1NzcxIn0.Eyq-l0ccjU2G0UbNuL8aMH482d3G8LQVfm7-MmGZs1U/s/980797174/br/110380220748-l).

In addition, [Help Me Connect](https://helpmeconnect.web.health.state.mn.us/HelpMeConnect/) is a new website that helps young families connect to services in their local communities. It was created in collaboration between the departments of Education, Health, and Human Services and supported through the Preschool Development Grant.