

# FACT SHEET | Growing Opportunity for Families and Businesses

## *An Opportunity Agenda for a Better Minnesota*

---

Minnesota's economy is strong and growing, with more than 255,400 jobs added over the last six years and one of the best, most productive workforces in the world. Despite that progress, too many people are still struggling to get ahead, and some regions of the state are still facing high unemployment and stagnant wages. That is why Governor Dayton is committed to cutting taxes for Minnesota families and partnering with businesses and entrepreneurs to create new jobs. A strong economy requires infrastructure that is efficient, effective, and accountable to the people who pay for it. To maintain the quality of life we deserve, we must repair roads and highways that are crumbling and modernize our water systems in a smart way so that we truly get what we pay for.

### **Tax Cuts for Minnesota Families**

- **Cutting Taxes for Minnesota Families** – Governor Dayton supports a balanced, commonsense approach to tax cuts that prioritizes economic opportunity for Minnesota families, while protecting the state's long-term fiscal health. The Governor's Opportunity Agenda would cut taxes for over 450,000 hardworking Minnesotans, everywhere in Minnesota.
- **Working Family Tax Credit** – The Working Family Tax Credit makes work pay by supplementing the wages of low-income workers. Governor Dayton's Opportunity Agenda would broaden the reach of the Working Family Credit, investing \$93.2 million to make 107,000 new households eligible. Over 260,000 families currently receiving the credit would see an increase. The average family would save an additional \$124 per year.
- **Making Child Care More Affordable** – Child care costs Minnesota families over \$10,000 per year for each child, on average – some of the highest costs in the country. But under current law, only 33,000 Minnesota families are eligible to receive tax credits for child care. The Dayton Opportunity Agenda would expand eligibility for these tax credits to a total of 95,000 Minnesota families, providing \$60 million in tax cuts. 75,000 families would save an additional \$379 per year. The Opportunity Agenda also includes more than \$84 million to increase child care assistance rates and remove red tape for low-income families and providers. These changes will improve care for more than 30,000 Minnesota children from working families and increase access to child care in Greater Minnesota.

### **Transportation and Infrastructure**

- **Building Roads and Bridges to New Opportunities** – Minnesota's roads and bridges are in worse shape than ever before. More than half of Minnesota's roads are more than 50 years old, and 40 percent of the state's bridges are more than 40 years old. Over the next 20 years, Minnesota faces an \$18 billion funding gap for state highways. Governor Dayton's transportation plan would ensure we get what we pay for, providing hardworking Minnesota taxpayers a better commute for about \$3.50 a week.
- **Investing in Infrastructure, Creating Jobs** – Communities across Minnesota have unmet critical infrastructure needs ranging from roads and bridges to public safety and higher education. The Dayton Opportunity Agenda includes a \$1.5 billion bonding bill that makes commonsense investments in the public infrastructure, education, health, and safety initiatives necessary to ensure Minnesota workers and businesses have the tools necessary to out innovate the competition.
- **Expanding Border-to-Border Broadband** – Approximately 22 percent of Minnesotans in rural areas lack access to affordable, reliable broadband internet. Since 2014, Governor Dayton has worked with the Legislature to invest \$66 million in broadband infrastructure grants – connecting 25,949 households, 3,176 businesses, and 244 community institutions to broadband access. This year, the Dayton Administration is proposing a \$60 million investment to further expand broadband access for Greater Minnesota households and businesses.

- **Preserving Greater Minnesota Rail Service** – Minnesota’s manufacturers and farmers depend on railroads to ship their products to markets across the United States and to international shipping hubs on the East and West Coasts. However, Minnesota’s short line and regional railroads, which connect our businesses to interstate railroads, cannot afford to maintain and upgrade their current track. To help ensure these critical connections are maintained and available in the future, the Dayton Opportunity Agenda includes a \$2 million investment to create a loan program that would help small railroads make needed track and right-of-way improvements.

## Job Creation and Business Expansion

- **Investing in Statewide Job Creation** – Since 2013, the Minnesota Investment Fund and Job Creation Fund have leveraged \$77 million in state funding to generate \$3.1 billion in private investment, a 40-to-1 return on investment while creating over 10,000 good jobs. Approximately 50 percent of the projects have been in Greater Minnesota communities. In 2016, Republicans cut funding for the Minnesota Investment Fund by 27 percent and the Job Creation Fund by nearly 52 percent. The Dayton Opportunity Agenda would invest \$20 million to restore funding for these programs for the next two years.
- **Investing in Growing Minnesota’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Businesses** – Minnesota’s Angel Tax Credit provides a 25 percent credit to investors or investment funds that put money into new technology start-up companies. The initiative has helped over 345 Minnesota businesses in growing industries like software, biotechnology, and medical devices secure needed startup capital. Between 2010 and 2015, a \$76 million state investment leveraged more than \$318 million in private sector investment. This year, Governor Dayton has proposed a \$10 million investment for 2019 to continue the program and create new economic opportunity across Minnesota.
- **Driving Minnesota’s Innovation Economy** – The Minnesota Discovery, Research, and Innovation Economy (MnDRIVE) program at the University of Minnesota supports research with the potential to create new jobs and new economic opportunities across the state. The Dayton Administration has proposed an \$8 million investment for the next two years to support research focused on cancer treatment – an area expected to create jobs and opportunity in the future.
- **Growing Minnesota’s Tourism Industry** – Minnesota is home to a \$14.4 billion tourism industry that supports over 260,000 jobs across the state. Governor Dayton has proposed a \$2 million investment to expand Explore Minnesota Tourism’s marketing and promotion efforts across the United States and in foreign countries. In 2015, the agency’s marketing campaigns paid off for Minnesota, generating 3.5 million trips and \$389 million in traveler spending.

## Equity Initiatives

- **Expanding Opportunity for All Minnesotans** – Governor Dayton is committed to building an economy that works for all Minnesotans, not just the privileged. That is why the Dayton Opportunity Agenda includes high-impact strategies to grow opportunity and create jobs with family sustaining wages for hardworking Minnesotans in every corner of the state. The Opportunity Agenda includes smart investments to prepare Minnesotans for jobs in growing industries, crack down on wage theft, and expand economic opportunities for Minnesotans who have been left behind.
- **Training for High Wage, High Demand Jobs** – The Minnesota PIPELINE project connects Minnesotans with training for jobs in high demand industries, including advanced manufacturing, agriculture, health care services, and information technology. Governor Dayton has proposed a \$600,000 investment to expand the PIPELINE project and allow more Minnesotans to participate.
- **Expanding Access to Apprenticeships in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fields** – Apprenticeship programs combine job-related technical instruction with structured, on-the-job learning experiences to prepare Minnesotans for high-demand jobs and careers. Minnesota’s LEAP initiative delivers grants to workforce training organizations that work with women, people of color, and members of other communities not traditionally involved in trades. Governor Dayton’s Opportunity Agenda includes a \$100,000 investment to expand the grant initiative and help connect more Minnesotans of color with good-paying jobs in trades.

## **Strengthening Consumer Protections**

- **Ending Unfair Lending Practices** – Many Minnesotans with low-incomes struggle to pay their living expenses and live paycheck to paycheck. When an unexpected cost arises, these families are forced to rely on short-term “payday” loans to cover the costs. These loans often carry interest rates of more than 200 percent. These rates can plunge Minnesota’s most vulnerable families into cycles of debt. The Dayton Opportunity Agenda would close loopholes allowing payday lenders to make interest rates much higher than intended under state law. It also would limit borrowers to no more than four short-term loans in a 12-month period.