

Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline Advanced Manufacturing Industry Forum

February 3, 2026

Agenda

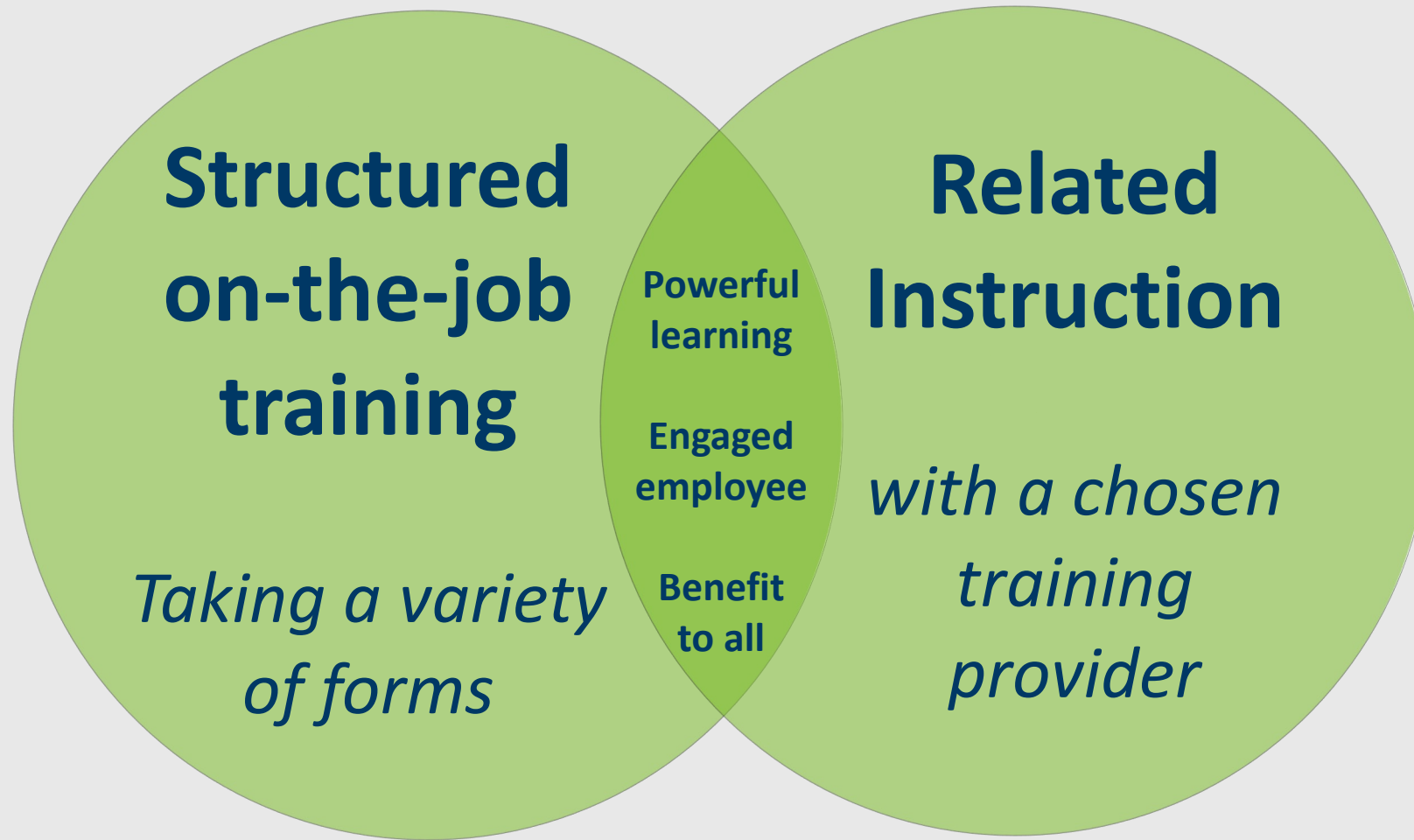
- Welcome/Introductions
- Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline overview
- Dual training resources
- Forj medical Dual Training experience
- OHE Dual Training grant update
- Wrap up/ upcoming events

What is Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline?



- Source of support to employers to develop their own employment-based, dual-training programs
- An innovative approach to address current and future workforce needs in the key industries of **advanced manufacturing, agriculture, child care, health care services, information technology, legal cannabis industry, and transportation**

Employment-Based Training



Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline Strategies

- **Industry Forums:** *Inform and direct* Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline on industry trends and needs through discussion and strategic planning aimed to expand dual training.
- **Competency Councils:** *Define and identify* specific occupational competencies for the seven key industries.
- **Dual-Training Consulting:** *Create and disseminate* dual training resources for employers, employees and dual trainees: toolbox, grants, and expanding mentorship networks to set up dual training.

November Speaker Series Recap



Diverse Minds Unified Goals

A Journey Into Neurodiversity At Work

Download the [presentation](#).

Ideas for future topics?

Let us know what else you might like to learn about.

Dual-Training Pipeline continues to help employers across Minnesota

In 2025, Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline continued the program's progress with advanced manufacturing, agriculture, child care, health care services, information technology, transportation and the legal cannabis industry. The team added 10 new occupations and continued to help employers address their critical workforce challenges through consulting, industry forums, tools and educational events.

Pipeline staff worked with employers to develop and enhance training efforts that pair competency-based on-the-job training with related formal education. Dual training allows employers to realize immediate benefits to employee retention and workplace culture while motivating existing employees and new hires. Employees earn credentials, grow their careers and support business workforce needs.

The Pipeline team also hosted eight Workforce Community Conversations throughout Minnesota and connected directly with employers. Pipeline met with new industry partners, hosted two Speaker Series enrichment events and offered consulting to create dual-training programs for employers across the state. Lastly, the team updated all competency models to ensure they are more in line with current practices and standards.

Check out the full recap here: [Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline 2025 Recap](#)

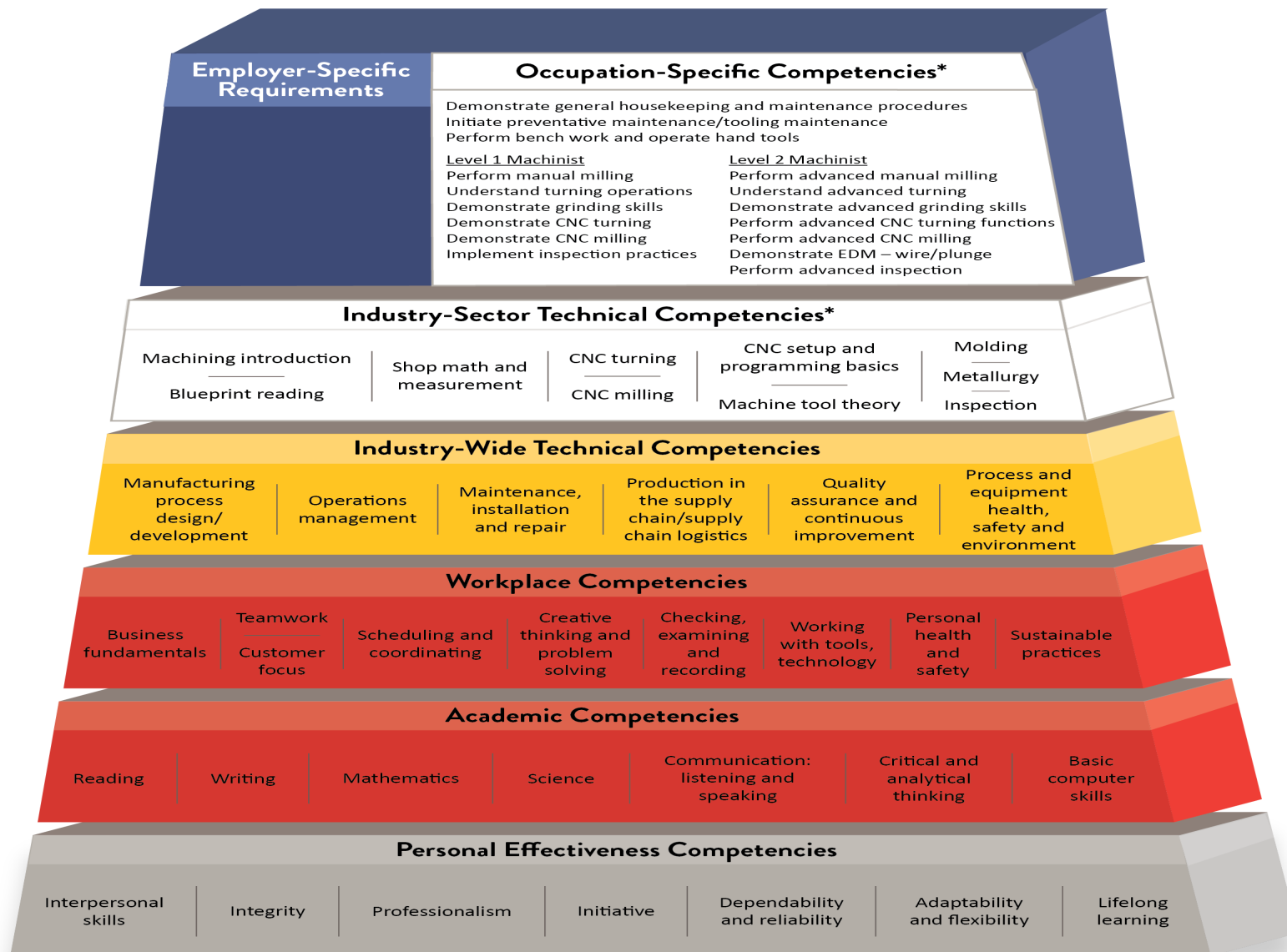
Current Advanced Manufacturing Occupations

- Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Programmer
- Coordinate Measuring Machine (CMM) Programmer
- Extrusion Molding Technician
- Flexo Technician
- Injection Molding Technician
- Logistics and Supply Chain Manager
- Machinist/ Tool and Die Maker
- Machinist / CNC Operator
- Manufacturing Engineer
- Maintenance and Repair Worker
- Manufacturing Production Supervisor
- Mechatronics Technician
- Print Press Operator
- Quality Assurance/ Food Safety Supervisor
- Quality Assurance Technician
- Robotics Operator
- Safety Technician
- Solderer/Welder
- Industrial Production Manager

Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline

Competency Model for Advanced Manufacturing

Occupation: Machinist/Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Operator



Pyramid example

Machinist/ CNC Operator

Based on: Advanced Manufacturing Competency Model, Employment and Training Administration, United States Department of Labor, February 2025. For more detailed information about competency model creation and sources, visit dli.mn.gov/business/workforce/advanced-manufacturing.

Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline Occupations – Factors for Adding New Occupations

- Two or more employers state need;
- Must offer a pathway to a livable wage: \$22.53/hour (based on a family with one child, one full-time and one part-time employed adult);
- Must be in-demand (Labor Market Information and other research considered);
- Must offer a career pathway; and
- Must lend itself to the dual-training model.

2026 Potential New Occupation(s)

Health Care Services

- Sterile Processing Technician
- Nurse Practitioner

Child Care

- Early Childhood Culinary Supervisor

Agriculture

- Livestock Veterinary Technician

Legal Cannabis

- Cannabis Logistics and Inventory Specialist

Transportation

- Aircraft Dispatcher

If you have any comments or suggested edits about final drafts of these competency models, please email them to pipeline.program@state.mn.us by Feb. 10, 2026.

Related Instruction Inventory

- Starting point for employers to develop a dual-training program;
- Includes education and training programs for approved occupations;
- Employers are not required to partner with the training providers on the list, but these are options to be considered.

[Pipeline Related Instruction Inventory | Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry](#)

An education or training provider that would like to be included on the inventory should reach out to our team to be added to the list.

Related Instruction Inventory site

PIPELINE RELATED INSTRUCTION INVENTORY

This tool contains an inventory of the training programs that lead to credentials recognized by the Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline. This list is not comprehensive but is a good snapshot of the training available to dual trainees in your organization. After selecting your industry and occupation, click "Search" to get a list of training programs, links and details about the programs.

This tool can list programs by industry and occupation in the drop down. If you are interested in searching the location of training programs, try adding the city name to the keyword search box. If you have a program name in mind that might be across multiple occupations, try adding that to the keyword search box.

The related instruction inventory is updated periodically, and programs make changes to how they are offered, which means that it is possible that a program on the inventory may not be eligible for dual training grant funding. As a result, applicants for the dual training grant are responsible for collaborating with related instruction training providers and ensuring they and their programs meet grant eligibility requirements.

For help with questions about training programs, providers or additions you'd like to see, contact us at PIPELINE.Program@state.mn.us or 651-284-5355.

Industry

Transportation

Select occupation

ALL

Keyword search by program or location

keyword

Search


Reset


| Occupation | Program | Training Institution | Location | Credit | Duration | Credential |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------|--------------------|
| Aircraft Maintenance Technician | Aircraft Maintenance Technician | Minneapolis College | Minneapolis | 104 credits | 2 years | Associate's degree |
| Aircraft Maintenance Technician | Aircraft Maintenance Technician | Minneapolis College | Minneapolis | 98 credits | 2 years | Diploma |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body and Collision Technology | South Central College | North Mankato | 72 credits | 2 years | Associate's Degree |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body and Collision Technology | South Central College | North Mankato | 64 credits | 2 years | Diploma |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Collision Technology | Dakota County Technical College | Rosemount | 72 credits | 2 years | Associate's Degree |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Collision Technology | Dakota County Technical College | Rosemount | 64 credits | 2 years | Diploma |

Related Instruction Inventory sample

| Occupation | Program | Training Institution | Location | Credit | Duration | Credential |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|-------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Aircraft Maintenance Technician | Aircraft Maintenance Technician | Minneapolis College | Minneapolis | 104 credits | 2 years | Associate's degree |
| Aircraft Maintenance Technician | Aircraft Maintenance Technician | Minneapolis College | Minneapolis | 98 credits | 2 years | Diploma |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body and Collision Technology | South Central College | North Mankato | 72 credits | 2 years | Associate's Degree |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body and Collision Technology | South Central College | North Mankato | 64 credits | 2 years | Diploma |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Collision Technology | Dakota County Technical College | Rosemount | 72 credits | 2 years | Associate's Degree |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Collision Technology | Dakota County Technical College | Rosemount | 64 credits | 2 years | Diploma |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Collision Technology | Minnesota State College Southeast | Winona | 67 credits | 2 years | Associate's Degree |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Collision Technology | Minnesota State College Southeast | Winona | 60 credits | 2 years | Diploma |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Collision Technology | Northland Community & Technical College | Thief River Falls | 73 credits | 2 years | Associate's Degree |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Collision Technology | Northland Community & Technical College | Thief River Falls | 63 credits | 2 years | Diploma |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Collision Technology | Ridgewater College | Wilmar | 72 credits | 2 years | Associate's Degree |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Collision Technology | Ridgewater College | Wilmar | 66 credits | 2 years | Diploma |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Collision Technology | St. Cloud Technical & Community College | St. Cloud | 34 credits | 2 years | Diploma |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Refinishing | Minnesota State College Southeast | Winona | 26 credits | 1 year | Certificate |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Sheet Metal Repair & Replacement | Minnesota State College Southeast | Winona | 29 credits | 1 year | Certificate |
| Automotive Mechanic | Auto Body Technician | Hennepin Technical College | Brooklyn Park | 72 credits | 2 years | Associate's degree |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Technician | Century College | White Bear Lake | 41 credits | 1-2 years | Diploma |
| Automotive Body Repair Technician | Auto Body Technician | Hennepin Technical College | Brooklyn Park | 64 credits | 2 years | Diploma |
| Automotive Mechanic | Auto Body Technology | Century College | White Bear Lake | 60 credits | 2 years | Associate's degree |
| Automotive Mechanic | Auto Service Technology | Lake Superior College | Duluth | 72 credits | 2 years | Diploma |
| Automotive Mechanic | Automotive Electronic Diagnostic Specialist | Anoka Technical College | Anoka | 32 credits | 1-2 years | Diploma |
| Automotive Mechanic | Automotive Electronics & Drivability | Northland Community & Technical College | Thief River Falls | 18 credits | 1 year | Certificate |
| Automotive Mechanic | Automotive Engine Repair, Suspension & Brakes | Northland Community & Technical College | Thief River Falls | 21 credits | 1-2 years | Certificate |
| Automotive Mechanic | Automotive General Service Technician | Riverland Community College | Albert Lea | 35 credits | 1 year | Diploma |
| Automotive Mechanic | Automotive Maintenance and General Repair | Minnesota State College Southeast | Winona | 17 credits | 1 year | Certificate |
| | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | |

On-The-Job Training

 DUAL-TRAINING PIPELINE

 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

[Company Name]

Competency Model for Transportation Occupation:
Aircraft Maintenance Technician

Related Instruction for dual training means the organized and systematic form of education resulting in the enhancement of skills and competencies related to the dual trainee's current or intended occupation.

Employee Name:

[Employee Name]

Date:

1/15/2026

Anticipated Completion Date:

Related Instruction

| Related Instruction Competencies | Course Name | Course Description | # of Credits | Start Date | Anticipated End Date | Weeks Completed | Weeks Required | % Complete |
|--|---------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| Aircraft electrical systems – Understand electrical components, such as, alternators, generators, starters, and voltage regulators to support inspection, troubleshooting, and repair of aircraft wiring. | Course 1 Name | Course 1 description | | [type date] | [type date] | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Aircraft manuals, blueprints, schematics – Understand how to read technical information found in manuals, blueprints, drawings, and schematics relating to the machinery. Must be able to make weight estimations for repairs and modifications. | Course 2 Name | Course 2 description | | [type date] | [type date] | 0 | 1 | 0 |

>

≡

Description

Related Instruction

OJT

Troubleshooting

+

- 5 Common Types
 - Job Shadowing
 - Mentorship
 - Cohort-Based Training
 - Assignment-Based Project Evaluation
 - Discussion-Based Training
- [Tools For Tracking On-The-Job-Training](#)

- Minnetronix Medical and Intricon have come together as **Forj Medical**, a vertically integrated, global CDMO built to accelerate the design, development, and manufacturing of complex medical devices.
- We solve complex engineering and manufacturing challenges across high-impact medical applications:
 - **Optical Systems**
 - **Fluid & Gas Management**
 - **Surgical Energy**
 - **Stimulation & Active Wearables**
 - **Electromagnetic Navigation Systems & Sensors**
 - **Consumables & Components**

Global Footprint

Strategic global footprint, with headquarters in Minnesota, additional facilities in Costa Rica, Singapore, and Indonesia

Approximately 900 Global Employees



- Forj's DTG Journey

- Applied for the grant in 2023 and did not receive
 - Got feedback on our application, and sought guidance from state colleges, other grantees, and our partners at the Dept of Labor and Industry
- Received the grant in 2024 for Yellow Belt Training
 - 35 trainees
 - Strong focus on on-the-job training (mentorship, projects, and community)
- Received the grant in 2025 for Green Belt Training
 - 15 trainees
 - Emphasized the importance of applying to specific large projects

- Key Learnings

- Seek feedback and don't hesitate to reach out to resources during the application
- Talk to multiple schools when seeking options (have a clear list of must haves)
- Learning goes well beyond the classroom. Create a strong OTJ learning plan
- Celebrate win!



Dual Training Grant Basics

An eligible DTG applicant must meet all the following:

- Be an employer or organization of employers
- Have a dual-training program
- Employ an eligible dual trainee
- Have an agreement with an eligible related instruction training provider
- If annual gross revenue exceeded \$25,000,000 in the previous calendar year, pay for at least 25% of related instruction costs
- If a current or prior DTG recipient, be in good standing on all grant requirements
- If a current or prior recipient of other Minnesota State grant programs, be in good standing on all grant requirements.



Jacquelynn Mol Sletten: Assistant Manager of Grants & Workforce Initiatives

Grace Ferdinandt: State Program Administrator

<https://ohe.mn.gov/dual-training-grant>

Dual Training Grant

The maximum grant request amount is **\$165,000** and limited among the following budget categories:

| Budget Category | Grantee Maximum Amount | Grantee Match Required | Expenditures | Dual Trainee Maximum Amount |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Related Instruction Costs | \$150,000 | 25% match required, if annual gross revenue exceeded \$25,000,000 Maximum: \$50,000 (\$2,000 per dual trainee) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuition• Fees• Required & recommended books• Required & recommended materials | \$6,000 |
| Trainee Support Costs | 10% of grant request amount, up to \$15,000 | None | Associated with Related Instruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transportation• Mileage• Lodging• Meals• Tutoring services• Translation and/or interpreter services | None |

Round 15 Dual Training Grant Application Timeline

February 23, 2026: Request for Proposal (RFP) posted on OHE website at <https://ohe.mn.gov/dual-training-grant> and available in grants management system at <https://gwi-ohe.intelligrants.com/>.

March 3, 2026: RFP Workshop virtual (recorded) via Microsoft Teams from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. central time. Workshop link available at <https://ohe.mn.gov/outreach-professional-resources/competitive-grants/dual-training-grant/dual-training-grant>.

March 4, 2026: RFP Refresh Workshop virtual (recorded) via Microsoft Teams from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. central time. Workshop link available at <https://ohe.mn.gov/outreach-professional-resources/competitive-grants/dual-training-grant/dual-training-grant>.

March 10, 2026: RFP Workshop in-person at Minnesota Office of Higher Education, St. Paul from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. central time. Workshop registration available at <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RrAU68QkGUWPJricIVmCjDgr8oApls1JqbtI6OEqW49UNEFLSjKzM1RIMIEwMIRTMD BUTVICMkdLOC4u>.

March 25, 2026: Technical questions due no later than 12:00 p.m. central time.

April 2, 2026: Grants management system user registration due.

April 8, 2026: Proposals due no later than **4:00 p.m. central time.**

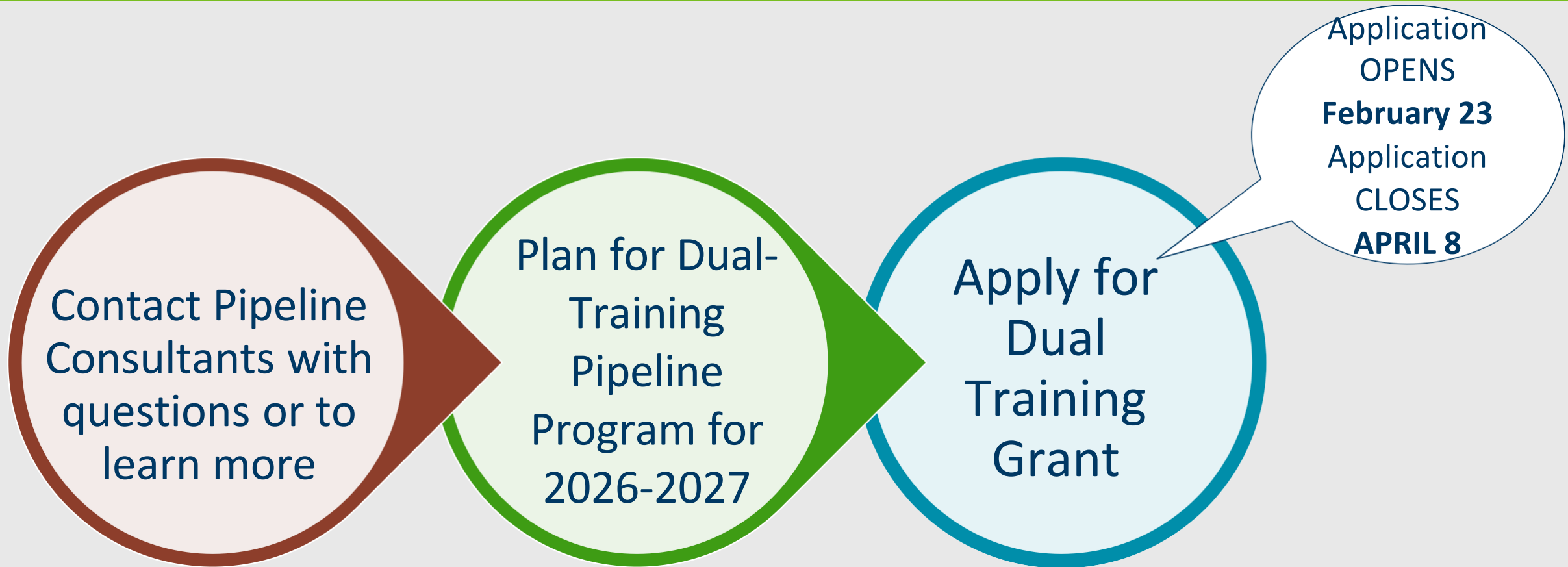
May 29, 2026: Applicants notified.

June 4, 2026: Grantees publicly announced.

June 8, 2026: Mandatory Grantee Orientation from **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. central time.**

All details on: <https://ohe.mn.gov/dual-training-grant>

Timeline



Timeline continued



Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- **Pipeline 101 – Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline Introductory Webinar**

Feb. 12, 2026, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. [Register here](#)

- **Pipeline Speaker Series – Stay tuned for updates**
- **Dual Training Grant Opens – Feb 23, 2026**
- **Dual Training Grant Closes – April 8, 2026**

Thank You!



Dan Solomon
Program Manager
651-284-5355

dan.solomon@state.mn.us



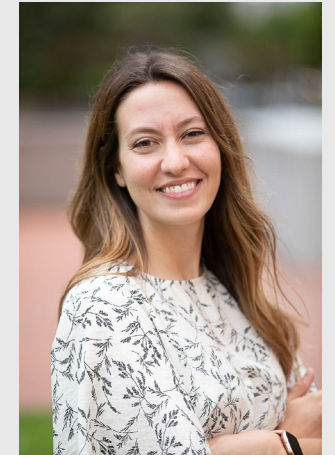
Kathleen Gordon
Program Consultant
651-284-5388

kathleen.gordon@state.mn.us



Erik Holtan
Program Consultant
651-284-5082

erik.holtan@state.mn.us



Madolyn Martini
Program Consultant
651-284-5088

madolyn.martini@state.mn.us