



Historical Perspective: Minnesota Youth Program Funding

What Happened?

When the 2005 Governor's Budget was released, it included no funding for the Minnesota Youth Program. In the budget pages, it was stated that "The removal of state support for the Minnesota Youth Program, YouthBuild, and Learn-to-Earn will not result in the elimination of any services."

MWCA fought to have MYP funding reinstated through active education efforts, participation in legislative hearings, and coordination of youth rallies and press events.

When the final 2005 funding bill went to the Governor for his signature, original included \$2.138 million in general fund dollars and \$3 million from the Workforce Development Fund. However, the Governor line-item vetoed the general fund portion of the allocation before he signed the bill.

In 2006, Representative Karen Clark attempted to provide additional funding to the Minnesota Youth Program through several amendments to various iterations of the House supplemental budget bill. Ultimately, there was no money included in the House proposal.

In the Senate, Senator Linda Higgins requested nearly \$4 million from the Workforce Development Fund for Summer Youth Employment programs *in Minneapolis only*. In the final version approved by the Conference Committee, the appropriation was scaled back to \$2.5 million for Minneapolis programs. This allocation comes out of the Workforce Development Fund.

2007 Legislative Session

The Governor's budget recommendation, released on January 22, 2007, once again excludes funds of any kind for the Minnesota Youth Program.

MWCA is talking to relevant committee members, advocating for funding (\$10 million) for the Minnesota Youth Program. We are currently drafting a bill that will specifically ask for funding for MYP, which will receive hearings later in session. The bill has not yet been introduced.