

# Department of Employment and Economic Development Grants Management

## Topic Selection Background Information

March 2024

<b>Program Overview</b>	The Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) administers dozens of grant programs focused on business growth, workforce development, international trade, and community development.
<b>Original Evaluation Questions</b>	How well has DEED managed state-funded grants? To what extent has DEED complied with requirements related to state-funded grants? To what extent has DEED documented that grant-funded services have been provided?
<b>Revised Questions</b>	
<b>State Resources</b> <i>High</i>	In Fiscal Year 2023, DEED received more than \$130 million in state funding to administer dozens of grant programs.
<b>State Control</b> <i>Medium-High</i>	State law typically establishes state-funded grants' purposes, and state agencies, including DEED, must follow state policies when administering their grant programs. However, some of the grants DEED administers are all or partially funded by the federal government, and must therefore be administered in compliance with federal requirements.
<b>Impact</b> <i>Medium</i>	Tens of thousands of Minnesotans receive services from DEED's workforce or business development grants, or live in communities that receive infrastructure improvements funded through DEED's grant programs.
<b>Timeliness</b> <i>Medium</i>	Grant oversight and administration are often of interest to legislators and the public, but there does not appear to be a pressing reason to review DEED's grants management at this time.
<b>Feasibility</b> <i>Medium-Low</i>	DEED manages many grant programs. OLA could evaluate DEED's management of a select number of these grant programs using standard evaluation techniques, but it would not be feasible to evaluate DEED's management of all grant programs.
<b>Balance</b> <i>Low</i>	Last year, OLA issued two program evaluations that reviewed agency grants management: <i>Oversight of State-Funded Grants to Nonprofit Organizations</i> , and <i>State Programs That Support Minnesotans on the Basis of Racial, Ethnic, or American Indian Identity</i> , the latter looked specifically at aspects of DEED's grants management. Another related evaluation, <i>Grant Award Processes</i> , will be released in spring 2024.
<b>Discussion</b> <i>Too broad</i>	This evaluation could provide in-depth information on DEED's grants management for a select number of grant programs. OLA would need guidance from legislators to determine which specific grant programs to evaluate.