

FACT SHEET | Supplemental Budget Items

2015 Budget for a Better Minnesota

Governor Mark Dayton's supplemental budget proposal would make bold new investments in education, save working families hundreds of millions of dollars every year, enhance public safety, and make essential new investments in stronger, safer Minnesota communities. This fact sheet describes the total investments these programs would receive in the Governor's overall budget plan, adding any additional appropriations to the funding levels he proposed in January 2015.

Excellent Educations for Every Student

Over the last four years, Governor Dayton has invested \$895 million in preK-12 education. The Governor's budget proposal would invest \$695 million more in preK-12 education. It would also provide \$288 million to improve our higher education systems, and make college more affordable for students and their families.

- **Free, Full-Day PreK for Every Four-Year-Old** – The Governor's budget would invest \$343 million to provide every four-year-old, or 47,000 kids statewide, access to free, full-day pre-kindergarten learning opportunities.
- **Making Higher Education More Affordable** – The Governor's budget would invest \$252 million to freeze tuition at the University of Minnesota and MnSCU campuses statewide and expand the State Grant Program. The tuition freezes would benefit an estimated 300,000 students at the University of Minnesota and MnSCU, saving students \$290-\$1,500 over the next two years. Increases in the State Grant Program would make college more affordable for an estimated 93,000 students statewide. The average state grant would increase by approximately \$352 per student, per year.
- **Regional Centers of Excellence** – The Governor's budget would double his initial proposed investment in Regional Centers of Excellence, with a \$12 million total investment over the next two years. The state's six Regional Centers provide one-one-one support to struggling schools, working with teachers and school leaders to identify challenges and implement plans for improvement. This nationally-recognized model has resulted in significant improvements in student achievement, with 54 percent of focus schools showing progress toward closing achievement gaps since 2011.
- **Investing in Special Education** – The Governor's budget would invest \$41 million in special education, freeing up additional funds for all Minnesota classrooms. Overall, this investment would benefit an estimated 130,000 students in preK-12 schools statewide.
- **Teacher Workforce Recruitment and Retention** – The Governor's budget would invest \$25 million to attract and retain a diverse teaching force in hard-to-fill teaching positions. This would help an estimated 400 new teachers enter the teaching profession, help school districts that are experiencing teacher shortages, and diversify the teacher workforce.

Investing in Children and Families

The Governor's budget proposal would invest \$367 million in children and families over the next two years. These efforts would put more money in the pockets of hundreds of thousands of working families, and help ensure all children have the care, support, and safety they need to succeed in school and life.

- **Working Family Tax Credit** – The Governor's proposal would invest \$83 million in tax relief for low- and middle-income working families statewide. More than 287,000 families would save an additional \$138 per year, on average. Eligible families would receive an average total credit of \$769.
- **Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect** – Last year, Governor Dayton convened a new Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children to recommend strategies that would protect kids from abuse and neglect. The Governor's supplemental budget proposal sets aside \$52 million to fund the Task Force's forthcoming recommendations.
- **K-12 Education Tax Credit** – The Governor's budget would invest \$11 million in expanding the K-12 Education Tax Credit to 16,800 more Minnesota families, saving them an estimated \$322 per year.

for expenses related to education. Eligible families could receive up to \$1,000 for each child to offset expenses for textbooks, tutoring, computers, transportation, and other eligible expenses.

- **Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)** – State assistance for low-income families has not increased since 1986, leaving parents and families without limited means to survive and provide for their children. The Governor’s proposal would invest \$68 million to increase monthly payments for low-income families by \$100 per month, or \$1,200 per year. This would help an estimated 70,000 children and 29,000 adults live better, safer, healthier lives.

Stronger, Safer, Healthier Communities

Governor Dayton’s supplemental budget proposal would also provide additional investments to improve the care of senior citizens, enhance public safety, and build stronger communities with affordable workforce housing. Proposed investments in these programs, and others, [are detailed online](#).

- **Nursing Homes** – Governor Dayton invested \$93 million in nursing homes over the last four years. Today, the Governor is proposing investing an additional \$25 million to increase worker salaries, retain qualified workers, and provide better care for nursing home residents statewide.
- **Public Safety** – The Governor’s budget proposal includes \$149 million for essential public safety efforts, the courts, and corrections system. These investments, which represent 8 percent of the total surplus, would enhance the safety of Minnesotans, and ensure the efficient, productive operation of the state’s justice system. The proposal would fund seven additional officers for the state’s Fugitive Apprehension Unit to track down and arrest dangerous criminals, and 10 additional staff members to supervise and help prevent offenders from becoming fugitives in the future.
- **Affordable Workforce Housing** – The Governor’s proposal would also invest an additional \$10 million in the Housing Job Growth Initiative – a program designed to build affordable housing in regions of Greater Minnesota where local business and job growth would be enhanced with better access to quality, affordable housing. This proposed investment would fund an estimated 650 affordable workforce housing units across Minnesota, addressing about 10 percent of the state’s workforce housing needs. It would double the \$10 million investment made in the program in 2013.
- **Helping Homeless and Sexually Exploited Youth** – The Governor’s budget would help vulnerable youth struggling with homelessness or who have been victims of sexual exploitation. It would provide \$2 million to provide emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, drop-in centers, and street outreach to 2,500 Minnesota youth who are homeless on any given night. His budget proposal would also invest \$4 million to provide outreach, housing, and supportive services for sexually-exploited youth under the Safe Harbor Law. The Safe Harbor Law prosecutes adult traffickers, but treats youth under age 18 as victims, rather than charging them with prostitution or other crimes.
- **Replenishing the Disaster Contingency Account** – The Governor’s budget would invest \$11 million to replenish the state’s Disaster Contingency Account, preparing Minnesota for any unforeseen natural or other disasters.

--- This fact sheet focuses on new items included in the Governor’s supplemental budget proposal ---