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## State of Minnesota

## Minnesota Department of Agriculture

## Affirmative Action Plan for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026

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Minnesota Department of Agriculture

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As requested by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost approximately \$1500 to prepare, including staff time, printing and mailing expenses.

To request an alternative format of this document, please contact

[MDA.Human-Resources@state.mn.us](mailto:MDA.Human-Resources@state.mn.us)

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# Table of Contents

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<b>Statement of Commitment</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Organizational Profile</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Individuals Responsible for Directing and Implementing the Affirmative Action Plan</b> .....	<b>7</b>
A. Commissioner .....	7
B. Affirmative Action Officer .....	8
C. Affirmative Action Officer Designee(s).....	9
D. Human Resources Director or Designee(s) .....	10
E. Americans with Disabilities Act Title I Coordinator .....	11
F. Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Coordinator.....	13
G. Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator.....	14
H. Senior Managers and Executive Team Leaders.....	15
I. All Employees.....	16
<b>Communication of the Affirmative Action Plan</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Internal Methods of Communication .....	17
External Methods of Communication .....	17
<b>Workforce Composition Analysis</b> .....	<b>18</b>
Job Category Review .....	18
Determining Availability.....	18
Progress Reports .....	18
Females .....	19
Racial or Ethnic Minorities .....	20
Persons with Disabilities.....	20
Separations Analysis .....	20
Utilization and Comparison of Employees to Availability.....	21
<b>Goals, Objectives, and Timetables</b> .....	<b>22</b>
Goals: .....	22
Timetables: .....	23
<b>Goals, Objectives, and Timetables by Protected Group</b> .....	<b>24</b>
Females:.....	24
Racial or Ethnic Minorities: .....	26
Persons with Disabilities .....	28
Barriers to Achieving Goals and Objectives:.....	29
<b>Recruitment, Retention, and Training</b> .....	<b>29</b>
Recruitment .....	29
Retention .....	31
Training .....	32
<b>Disability Recruitment, Hiring, and Advancement</b> .....	<b>34</b>
Supported Employment (Worker) Program .....	35
Reasonable Accommodations .....	35

- A. Statewide ADA Reasonable Accommodation Policy Statewide HR/LR Policy #1433: ADA Reasonable Accommodation Policy .....36
- B. Minnesota Department of Agriculture Employee/Applicant Request for Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) Reasonable Accommodation Form.....48
- C. Notice Under the Americans with Disabilities Act Title II .....49
- D. Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) Title II (non-employee) Reasonable Accommodation/Modification in Public Services, Programs or Activities Request Form .....49
- E. Minnesota Department of Agriculture Grievance Procedure Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.....51
- F. Evacuation Procedure for Persons with Disabilities or Otherwise in Need of Assistance.....52
- Methods of Auditing, Evaluating, and Reporting Program Success ..... 54**
  - Pre-Employment Review Procedure/Monitoring the Hiring Process .....54
  - Pre-Review Procedure for Layoff Decisions .....54
  - Other Methods of Program Evaluation .....54
- Audits, Sanctions, and Incentives ..... 55**
- Policies and Procedures for Harassment and Discrimination Complaints ..... 56**
  - A. Statewide Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy, HR/LR Policy # 1436 (issued 6/12/2019) .....56
  - B. Statewide Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policy Statewide HR/LR Policy #1329: Sexual Harassment Prohibited (revised 6/12/2019).....63
  - C. Complaint Procedure for Processing Complaints Under the Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy or the Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policy:.....68
  - D. Minnesota Department of Agriculture Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited/Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policies Complaint Form Template .....71
- Appendices ..... 70**
  - Appendix A: Progress Report .....70
  - Appendix B: Separation Analysis .....73
  - Appendix C: Job Category Analysis.....77
  - Appendix D: Feeder Jobs.....81
  - Appendix E: Determining Availability .....101
  - Appendix F: Utilization-Goal Analysis.....107
- Definitions of Terms Used in This Affirmative Action Plan..... 109**

## Statement of Commitment

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Minnesota Administrative Rules, part 3905.0400, subpart 1, item C.

This statement reaffirms the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (thereafter “the agency”) is committed to Minnesota’s statewide affirmative action efforts and providing equal employment opportunity to all employees and applicants in accordance with equal opportunity and affirmative action laws.

I affirm my personal and official support of these policies which provide that:

- No individual shall be discriminated against in the terms and conditions of employment, personnel practices, or access to and participation in programs, services, and activities, or subject to harassment, on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, public assistance, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, membership or activity in a local human rights commission, genetic information, retaliation.
- This agency is committed to the implementation of the affirmative action policies, programs, and procedures included in this plan to ensure that employment practices are free from discrimination. Employment practices include, but are not limited to the following: hiring, promotion, demotion, transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff, disciplinary action, termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship. We will provide reasonable accommodation to employees and applicants with disabilities.
- This agency will continue to actively promote a program of affirmative action, wherever females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities are underrepresented in the workforce, and work to retain all qualified, talented employees, including protected group employees.
- This agency will evaluate its efforts, including those of its directors, managers, and supervisors, in promoting equal opportunity and achieving affirmative action objectives contained herein. In addition, this agency will expect all employees to perform their job duties in a manner that promotes equal opportunity for all.

It is the agency’s policy to provide an employment environment free of any form of discriminatory harassment as prohibited by federal, state, and local human rights laws. I strongly encourage suggestions as to how we may improve. We strive to provide equal employment opportunities and the best possible service to all Minnesotans.

Commissioner or Agency Head: Signed by:  
*Thom Petersen*  
4109DAF109F047C... Date Signed: 9/13/2024

## Executive Summary

Minnesota Administrative Rules, part 3905.0400, subpart 1, item A.

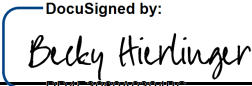
This Affirmative Action Plan (AAP) meets the requirements set forth in Statutes, in Administrative Rules, and by Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB). The AAP contains:

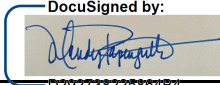
- Affirmative action workforce analysis.
- Goals, objectives, and timetables.
- Assertive hiring, recruitment, and retention methods for achieving goals and objectives.

This Affirmative Action review revealed underutilization of the following protected group(s) in the following job categories:

**Table 1. Workforce Underutilization of Protected Groups**

Job Category	Females	Racial or Ethnic Minorities	Persons with Disabilities
Officials and Administrators	-	-	-
Professionals	-	X	-
Technicians	X	-	-
Paraprofessionals	-	-	-
Administrative Support	-	-	-
Service Maintenance	X	X	-

**Affirmative Action Officer or Designee:**  **Date Signed:** 9/13/2024

**Human Resources Director or Designee:**  **Date Signed:** 9/13/2024

**Commissioner or Agency Head:**  **Date Signed:** 9/13/2024

## Organizational Profile

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The mission of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is to enhance Minnesotan's quality of life by ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength and resilience of our agricultural economy.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has served our state for more than 125 years. The work we do touches every Minnesota citizen every day. Our general areas of responsibility include protecting our food supply; protecting our natural resources; and cultivating our agricultural economy.

The Commissioner's Office is responsible for the administration and policy direction of the agency. The Commissioner serves as a spokesperson for agriculture throughout the state and within the state's executive branch. Every two years, the Commissioner and staff prepare the agency's budget and present it to the state Legislature. Commissioner's Office staff members coordinate the legislative, policy, legal, tribal and communications of the department.

The Agricultural Marketing and Development Division assists farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses in adopting practices and technologies to address current challenges and global issues. Activities include the development, marketing, and promotion of local foods, organics, livestock, and renewable fuels as well as the development of domestic and international market opportunities for agricultural products. The division administers the Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Program which includes grant and cost-share programs that support the agricultural and renewable energy industries. The division fosters research on the use and protection of ag land and related natural resources and identifies and demonstrates sustainable agriculture practices and systems.

The Dairy and Meat Inspection Division is responsible for inspecting animal slaughter and meat processing facilities, dairy farms and dairy processing facilities, and shell egg facilities. The division provides education and enforcement of state laws and regulations at these businesses to ensure the production of safe and wholesome food. Additionally, the division operates a Drug Residue Prevention Program to educate livestock producers on preventing occurrences of antibiotic residues in meat and milk products, and a Venison Donation Program cooperatively with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to facilitate the donation of hunter-harvested venison to local food charities.

The Finance and Budget Division provides fiscal services and controls financial transactions of the department. Core functions include preparing financial portions of department budgets, establishing contract encumbrances, paying obligations, processing receipts, tracking asset inventory, overseeing mobile device management, maintaining core license data, processing employee payroll, auditing employee business expenses, and managing mailroom and fleet services. The Rural Finance Authority (RFA) and Agricultural Best Management Practices (AgBMP) sections within FBD offers low-interest loan programs for a wide variety of activities. The RFA partners with local lenders to provide affordable credit to eligible farmers. The AgBMP Loan Program is a water quality program that provides low interest loans to Minnesota farmers, rural landowners and agriculture supply businesses. The purpose is to encourage agricultural Best Management Practices that prevent or reduce runoff from feedlots, farm fields and other pollution problems identified by the county in local water plans, including private and cluster septic system installations, upgrades or repairs within Minnesota.

The Food and Feed Safety Inspection Division houses four regulatory inspection programs (Manufactured Food, Retail Food, Commercial Animal Feed, and Produce Safety) which enforce state laws and regulations related to the production and processing of foods, beverages, produce, and animal feed. The division inspects grocery stores, convenience stores, food processing facilities, feed mills, and pet food manufacturers to verify quality, condition, labeling, and sanitation of premises, equipment, and vehicles used in the sale, storage, or distribution of foods and beverages. The division also works with federal, state, and local health officials to investigate food contamination complaints and foodborne illness outbreaks.

The Human Resources Division provides services in the areas of recruitment, selection, personnel transaction processing, job classification, compensation administration, benefits information and processing, labor relations, diversity, health/safety promotion, and facilities management.

The Laboratory Services Division provides microbiological and chemical analysis of samples to determine if the samples meet the standards established under law, regulation, or label. Additionally, the division performs analyses to fulfill contracts and cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal and state agencies.

The Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division regulates the sale and use of pesticides and fertilizers in Minnesota. Activities include permitting and inspection of ag chemical facilities, licensing of facilities, licensing of applicators, oversight of agricultural chemical site remediation, voluntary cleanups, and waste pesticide collection. Additionally, division personnel respond to emergencies, conduct pesticide misuse investigations, monitor surface water and ground water for agricultural chemicals, and develop and promote best management practices.

The Plant Protection Division is responsible for preventing, detecting and responding to invasive plants, pathogens and pests that threaten Minnesota's agricultural and natural systems. The division regulates agricultural processes including the labeling and sale of seed, purchase and storage of grain, hemp production, sale of nursery stock, and seed potato certification. The division also inspects, grades, and certifies agricultural commodities for sale as well as importation into domestic or international markets. These activities contribute to the mission of the agency by protecting agriculture and the environment from pest threats, ensuring truth in labeling, and verifying the quality of Minnesota products for sale or export.

# Individuals Responsible for Directing and Implementing the Affirmative Action Plan

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Minnesota Administrative Rules, section 3905.0400, subpart 1, item B.

## A. Commissioner

### Responsibilities

The Commissioner is responsible for establishing an Affirmative Action Plan, including goals, timetables, and compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations. Quarterly, the Commissioner reports the agency's progress in meeting its affirmative action goals and objectives to the Commissioner of Minnesota Management & Budget (MMB). The Commissioner, through the Commissioner of MMB, will report annually to the Governor and the Legislature the agency's progress in meeting its affirmative action goals and objectives

### Duties

The duties of the Commissioner include, but are not limited to:

- Appoint the Affirmative Action Officer or designee and include accountability for the administration of the agency's Affirmative Action Plan in his or her position description.
- Take action, if needed, on complaints of discrimination and discriminatory harassment.
- Issue a statement affirming the department's commitment to affirmative action and equal employment opportunity and ensure the statement is shared with all employees.
- Make decisions and changes in policies, procedures or physical accommodations as needed to implement effective affirmative action in the agency.
- Actively promote equal employment opportunity and incorporate diversity and inclusion principles in annual business plans, strategic plans, and the agency's mission.
- Notify all contractors and sub-contractors with the department of their affirmative action responsibilities.
- Enforce equal employment opportunity in affirmative and non-affirmative hiring decisions reviewed in the hiring process.
- Require that all agency directors, managers, and supervisors include responsibility statements to support affirmative action, equal opportunity, diversity, and cultural responsiveness in their position descriptions and annual objectives.
- Comply with state-wide and agency anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies.

### Accountability

The Commissioner is accountable directly to the Governor and indirectly to the Commissioner of MMB for affirmative action matters.



## Name of individual(s) responsible

**Name:** Thom Petersen

**Email:** [thom.petersen@state.mn.us](mailto:thom.petersen@state.mn.us)

**Title:** Commissioner

**Phone:** 651-201-6219

## B. Affirmative Action Officer

### Responsibilities

The Affirmative Action Officer is directly responsible for developing, coordinating, implementing, and monitoring the agency's affirmative action plan.

### Duties

The duties of the Affirmative Action Officer include, but are not limited to:

- Develop and administer the agency's Affirmative Action Plan.
- Develop and set agency-wide affirmative action hiring goals.
- Monitor agency compliance and fulfill all affirmative action reporting requirements.
- Disseminate the affirmative action policy to employees in the agency.
- Inform the Commissioner of progress on affirmative action and equal opportunity goals and report potential concerns.
- Act as the affirmative action liaison between the agency, MMB, and the Governor's Office.
- Determine the need for affirmative action training within the agency. Develop training goals and content with internal and external resources.
- Review and recommend changes in policies, procedures, programs, and physical accommodations to implement affirmative action and equal opportunity.
- Develop innovative programs to attract and retain individuals from protected groups in the agency.
- Support and recruit females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities for employment, promotion, and training opportunities.
- Manage the agency's pre-hire review process. Review requests for non-affirmative hires in the Monitoring the Hiring process and refer unresolved issues to the Commissioner for final decision.
- Ensure supervisors and managers are making good faith efforts to recruit and retain qualified candidates and employees from protected groups.
- Oversee the administration of the Americans with Disabilities Act Title I and Title II.

- Maintain records of requests for reasonable accommodations.
- Oversee the administration of the Agency Diversity Recruitment program.
- Comply with state-wide and agency anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies.

### Accountability

The Affirmative Action Officer is accountable to the Commissioner for program impacts and for ongoing program activities and direction. The Affirmative Action Officer oversees the administration of ADA Title II, manages diversity and inclusion initiatives, and other equal opportunity related matters. In addition, the AAO ensures that aggregate data and trends of complaints of illegal discrimination in hiring are provided and shared with the Human Resources Director on a quarterly basis.

### Name of individual(s) responsible

**Name:** Becky Hierlinger

**Email:** [becky.hierlinger@state.mn.us](mailto:becky.hierlinger@state.mn.us)

**Title:** HR Consultant 1

**Phone:** 651/201-6407

## C. Affirmative Action Officer Designee(s)

### Responsibilities

Designees are responsible for the implementation of the department's Affirmative Action Plan at their facility/work location. Each designee is directly accountable to the agency's Affirmative Action Officer for matters relating to affirmative action.

### Duties

The duties of Affirmative Action Designees include, but are not limited to:

- Fulfill all affirmative action reporting requirements by submitting standard reports.
- Ensure dissemination of all relevant affirmative action information to appropriate staff.
- Serve as ex-officio member of the Employee Resource Group (ERG) diversity committee at their work and/or participate in the agency's diversity or equity committee.
- Determine the need for diversity training and recommend training at their respective work location.
- Review policies, procedures, and practices to recommend changes to the Affirmative Action Officer.
- Partner with the agency's recruitment team at their work locations.

- Comply with statewide and agency anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies.

### Accountability

The Affirmative Action Designee is accountable indirectly to the Affirmative Action Officer on matters pertaining to Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity.

### Name of individual(s) responsible

**Name:** Lauren Daniels

**Email:** [lauren.daniels@state.mn.us](mailto:lauren.daniels@state.mn.us)

**Title:** HR Technician 2

**Phone:** 651/201-6514

## D. Human Resources Director or Designee(s)

### Responsibilities

The Human Resource (HR) Office is responsible for ensuring equitable and uniform administration of all personnel policies.

The HR Director is responsible, in conjunction with the agency ADA Coordinator, for ensuring timely responses to all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requests for reasonable accommodations to remove barriers to equal employment opportunity with the agency. The HR Director is responsible for assisting managers and supervisors in human resources management activities.

Staff within HR who work on affirmative action and diversity issues are accountable to the HR Director or Designee.

### Duties

The duties of HR Director include, but are not limited to:

- Maintain effective working relationships with the agency Affirmative Action Officer and designees.
- Provide leadership to HR staff and others to ensure personnel decision-making processes adhere to equal opportunity and affirmative action principles.
- Provide guidance in the development and use of selection criteria to ensure they are objective, uniform, and job related.
- Assist in recruitment and retention of protected groups and notify managers and supervisors of existing disparities.
- Ensure an Affirmative Action Pre-hire Review process is implemented and followed by hiring managers and supervisors in collaboration with the Affirmative Action Officer.

- Initiate and report on progress made with program objectives contained in the Affirmative Action Plan.
- Ensure that the reasonable accommodation process is implemented and followed for all employees and applicants in need of a reasonable accommodation.
- Assist supervisors, managers, and the Affirmative Action Officer in the recruitment of protected group members through career and job fairs and other efforts, as well as in selection and retention of protected group members.
- Assist supervisors, managers, the Affirmative Action Officer, and HR staff in the creation of supported worker positions. These positions help reduce agency costs by diverting supportive employment duties from higher skilled workers to supported worker positions. This can improve employee morale and retention of persons with disabilities in integrated employment.
- Request assistance from MMB to support diversity recruitment efforts, as well as the retention of protected group members in hard-to-fill or executive level positions.
- Include responsibility statements for affirmative action/equal employment opportunity in position descriptions and annual performance objectives.
- Comply with state-wide and agency anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies.

### Accountability

HR staff are accountable to the HR Director or Designee.

### Name of individual(s) responsible

**Name:** Mandy Papenguth

**Email:** [mandy.papenguth@state.mn.us](mailto:mandy.papenguth@state.mn.us)

**Title:** Human Resources Director 3

**Phone:** 651/201-6361

**Name:** Sherry Thomas

**Email:** [sherry.thomas@state.mn.us](mailto:sherry.thomas@state.mn.us)

**Title:** Human Resources Director 1

**Phone:** 651/201-6513

## E. Americans with Disabilities Act Title I Coordinator

### Responsibilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title I Coordinator is responsible for ensuring the agency's compliance with the ADA Title I – Employment, in accordance with the ADA - as amended, and the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

## Duties

The duties of the ADA Title I Coordinator include, but are not limited to:

- Provide guidance, coordination, and direction to agency management on the ADA. The agency develops and implements policies, procedures, and practices to ensure agency employment practices and programs are accessible and nondiscriminatory.
- Provide training, technical guidance, and consultation to agency management and staff on compliance and best practices for hiring and retaining persons with disabilities, as well as the provision of reasonable accommodations to employees and job applicants.
- Track and facilitate requests for reasonable accommodations for job applicants and employees, as well as members of the public accessing agency services and report reasonable accommodations annually to MMB.
- Research case law rules and regulation and update Human Resources (HR) Directors on evolving ADA issues. Meet bi-annually with ADA Coordinators and provide updates on ADA.
- Ensure compliance with ADA reporting according to state and federal requirements.
- Assist the Affirmative Action Officer in designing and delivering specific ADA training for targeted groups.
- Submit reasonable accommodation reimbursement under the guidelines of the state-wide accommodation fund.
- Receive requests for ADA accommodations and work with appropriate supervisors, unions, etc. to approve or deny the request, or provide alternative accommodations.
- Provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals (as defined by ADA) with known physical or mental disabilities, to enable them to compete in the selection process, perform essential functions of the job, and/or enjoy equal benefits and privileges. The ADA Coordinator and the Regional Human Resources Director (RHRD) who also serve as the Regional ADA Coordinator, in consultation with the employee and supervisor, and other individuals involved must:
  - Discuss the purpose and essential functions of the job and complete a step-by-step job analysis;
  - Determine the precise job-related limitations;
  - Identify potential accommodations and assess the effectiveness each would have in allowing the employee to perform essential functions of the job; and
  - After discussion and review, select and implement the accommodations that are appropriate for both the employee and the employer using the Reasonable Accommodation Agreement.
- Comply with state-wide and agency anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies.

## Accountability

The ADA Title I Coordinator is accountable to HR Director.

### Name of individual(s) responsible

**Name:** Anthony Becker

**Email:** [anthony.becker@state.mn.us](mailto:anthony.becker@state.mn.us)

**Title:** Safety Administrator

**Phone:** 651/201-6640

## F. Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Coordinator

### Responsibilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II Coordinator is responsible ensuring the agency's compliance with the ADA Title II – Public Services, in accordance with the ADA as amended, and the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

### Duties

The duties of the ADA Title II Coordinator include, but are not limited to:

- Provide guidance, coordination, and direction to agency management on the ADA. The agency develops and implements policies, procedures, and practices to ensure agency employment practices and programs are accessible and nondiscriminatory.
- Provide training, technical guidance, and consultation to the agency's management and staff on compliance and best practices with regards and obligations to members of the public with disabilities, as well as the provision of reasonable modifications for visitors.
- Track and facilitate requests for reasonable modifications for members of the public accessing agency services. Report reasonable modifications annually to MMB.
- Research case law rules and regulation and update Executive team on evolving ADA issues. Meet bi-annually with state ADA Coordinators and learn updates and share practices on ADA.
- Ensure compliance with ADA reporting according to state and federal requirements.
- Assist the Affirmative Action Officer in designing and delivering training for Agency employees assisting ADA modifications for the public.
- Provide reasonable modifications to members of the public (as defined by ADA) with known physical or mental disabilities to ensure equal access and privileges to programming and services. The ADA Title II Coordinator will consult with the member of the public in need of a modification and:
  - Discuss the purpose and essential functions of the reasonable modification.
  - Identify the potential modifications and assess the effectiveness each request.

- After discussion and review, select and implement the modifications that are appropriate for both the member of the public and the agency.
- Document this review and reported in the State ADA Annual Report.
- Comply with state-wide and agency anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies.

### Accountability

The ADA Title II Coordinator is accountable to the HR Director.

### Name of individual(s) responsible

**Name:** Anthony Becker

**Email:** [anthony.becker@state.mn.us](mailto:anthony.becker@state.mn.us)

**Title:** Safety Administrator

**Phone:** 651/201-6640

## G. Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator

### Responsibilities

The Diversity Recruitment Coordinator is responsible for the creation and coordination of the Diversity Recruitment Plan outlined in this document.

### Duties

The duties of the Diversity Recruitment Coordinator include, but are not limited to:

- Identify high-need recruitment job areas within the agency.
- Communicate the strategic recruitment plan to Human Resources (HR), the executive team, management, and staff.
- Assist the Affirmative Action Officer in conducting periodic audits of recruitment activity to measure the effectiveness of efforts and activities toward attaining strategic diversity goals and objectives.
- Maintain relationships with agency executive teams, HR, and management to make decisions about the diversity recruitment needs of the department.
- Maintain relationships with community stakeholders, colleges and universities, and workforce centers to continue effective diversity recruitment strategies.
- Maintain active participation in the state-wide recruiters' group.
- Comply with state-wide and agency anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies.

## Accountability

The Diversity Recruitment Coordinator is accountable to the Assistant Commissioner and HR Director.

### Name of individual(s) responsible

**Name:** Sabrenia Young

**Email:** [sabrenia.young@state.mn.us](mailto:sabrenia.young@state.mn.us)

**Title:** Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator

**Phone:** 651/201-6657

**Name:** Becky Hierlinger

**Email:** [becky.hierlinger@state.mn.us](mailto:becky.hierlinger@state.mn.us)

**Title:** Human Resources Consultant 1

**Phone:** 651/201-6407

## H. Senior Managers and Executive Team Leaders

### Responsibilities

Agency senior managers and executive team leaders are responsible for implementing all aspects of the agency Affirmative Action Plan and the agency's commitment to affirmative action and equal opportunity.

### Duties

The duties of senior managers and executive team leaders include, but are not limited to:

- Identify problem areas and eliminate barriers that prevent equal employment opportunity within the agency.
- Communicate the equal opportunity employment policy and the affirmative action plan to all employees.
- Assist the Affirmative Action Officer in periodic audits of hiring and promotion patterns to remove obstacles to attaining affirmative action goals and objectives.
- Hold regular discussions with supervisors and employees to ensure the agency's equal employment opportunity policies are being followed.
- Inform and evaluate managers and supervisors on their equal employment opportunity efforts and results, in addition to other job performance criteria.
- Comply with statewide and agency anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies.

### Accountability



Senior managers and executive team leaders are accountable directly to the appropriate Assistant Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner or the Commissioner.

## I. All Employees

### Responsibilities

All employees are responsible for conducting themselves in accordance with the State of Minnesota's policy of equal employment opportunity. This includes refraining from any actions that would subject any employee to negative treatment on the basis of race, creed, color, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age, marital status, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, reliance on public assistance, membership or activity in a local human rights commission, religion, political opinions, or affiliations. Employees who believe they have been subjected to such discrimination or harassment are encouraged to use the agency's complaint procedure.

### Duties

The duties of all employees include, but are not limited to:

- Exhibit an attitude of respect, courtesy, and cooperation toward colleagues and the public.
- Refrain from any actions that would adversely affect a colleague on the basis of their race, creed, color, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age, marital status, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, reliance on public assistance, membership or activity in a local human rights commission, religion, political opinions, or affiliations.
- Comply with state-wide and agency anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies.

### Accountability

Employees are accountable to their designated supervisor and indirectly to the agency's Commissioner. All employees are responsible for conducting themselves in accordance with the Affirmative Action Plan.

## Communication of the Affirmative Action Plan

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Minnesota Administrative Rules, section 3905.0400, subpart 1, item D and item E.

The following information describes the methods that the agency takes to communicate the Affirmative Action Plan to employees and the general public:

## Internal Methods of Communication

- **Internal memorandum.** Agency leadership or the Affirmative Action Officer will send an internal memo to agency employees each year. This message identifies the location of the Affirmative Action Plan and the employee's responsibility to read and understand it. It also indicates the employee's responsibility to support and implement equal opportunity and affirmative action.
- **Intranet.** The agency's Affirmative Action Plan is available to all employees on the agency's internal (Intranet) website at [MDA Affirmative Action Plan \(https://mn365.sharepoint.com/sites/MDA/hr/diversity/SitePages/Home.aspx\)](https://mn365.sharepoint.com/sites/MDA/hr/diversity/SitePages/Home.aspx) and in print to anyone who requests it. As requested, the agency will make the plan available in alternative formats.
- **Printed copy.** A physical copy of the Agency's Affirmative Action Plan is available to employees at the following address:

625 Robert Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-2538

## External Methods of Communication

- **Public website.** The agency's Affirmative Action Plan is available on the agency's public website at [MDA Affirmative Action Plan \(https://www.mda.state.mn.us/about/human-resources-division\)](https://www.mda.state.mn.us/about/human-resources-division).
- Printed copies are available to anyone who requests it. As requested, the agency will make the plan available in alternative formats.
- **Equal opportunity employer language.** The agency's website homepage, letterhead, publications, and all job postings include the statement "The MDA is an equal opportunity employer." The agency will also ensure a representative ratio of diversity is on all marketing materials.
- A physical copy of the Agency's Affirmative Action Plan is available to contractors, vendors, and members of the public at the following address:

625 Robert Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-2538

## Workforce Composition Analysis

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Minnesota Administrative Rules, part 3905.0600, subpart 2, items A to C, subpart 3, items A to D, subpart 4. Subpart 5, and subpart 6.

### Job Category Review

The agency conducted a Job Category Analysis to determine the percent of protected group employees in each job category. The job category analysis lists job class titles in each Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) job category at the agency. A job classification is a group of one or more positions with similar duties and responsibilities. These classifications help clarify positions within the class so the same schedules of pay can be applied with equity to all positions in the class that fall under the same, or substantially the same, employment conditions.

### Determining Availability

The agency used the United States Census Bureau's EEO Tabulation 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) statistical data for external availability. The feeder job statistics of employees are used for internal availability (refer to Appendix D. Feeder Jobs for details).

These external and internal factors are weighted according to the agency's past hiring patterns and/or future recruitment focus to obtain the final availability (Refer to Appendix E. Determining Availability for details).

### Progress Reports

The progress report examines hiring goals established in the prior Affirmative Action Plan. As a part of the agency's monitoring practices, the agency evaluated if it met the hiring goal(s) established in the prior Affirmative Action Plan (refer to [Appendix A. Progress Report](#)).

[Appendix A. Progress Report](#) includes only job categories that have hiring goal(s) established in the prior Affirmative Action Plan and it evaluates if the agency attained the hiring goal(s).

Where the indication of the "Goal Met?" column is:

- "Yes": the agency met the goal established in the prior Affirmative Action Plan.
- "No": the agency did not attain the goal established in the prior Affirmative Action Plan.
- "No Hire/Prom": there were no opportunities in the prior Affirmative Action Plan period.

**Table 2. Progress Report from 2022-2024 Affirmative Action Plan**

Job Category	Females	Racial or Ethnic Minorities	Persons with Disabilities
Officials and Administrators	Yes	-	-
Professionals	-	No	-
Technicians	No	-	-
Paraprofessionals	No	-	-
Administrative Support	-	-	-
Service Maintenance	No	No	-

**Females**

In the 2022 – 2024 Affirmative Action Plan, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture was disparate in females in the Officials and Administrators, Technicians, Paraprofessionals and Service Maintenance categories. Throughout the plan years, the Agency met the underutilization goals for Officials and Administrators but did not meet goals for Technicians, Paraprofessionals and Service and Maintenance categories.

Over the course of the plan year, the Agency had 8 hires and promotions in the Officials and Administrators category and 6 of those were females. The Agency goal was to have a 48.12% hire rate for females in this category and ended the plan years at 62.50%. There was also a 0.00% separation rate for females in this category.

For the Technicians category, the Agency hired 21 people and 7 of those individuals were females. There were no promotional opportunities or movements in this category. The Agency goal was to have a 65.60% hire rate in this category and ended up with a 33.3% hire rate. There were 15 individuals in the Technicians category that separated and 4 were females.

For the Paraprofessionals category, the Agency hired 18 people and 14 of them were females. The Agency goal was to have an 80.56% hire rate in this category and ended up with a 77.78% hire rate. There were 15 individuals in the Paraprofessionals category that separated and 8 were female. All 8 of the females who left were in temporary positions that ended. The majority of positions held in the Paraprofessionals category at the Agency are temporary in nature which makes it hard to retain and maintain the goals for this category.

For the Service Maintenance category, the Agency hired or promoted 75 people and 30 were females. The Agency goals was to have a 43.83% hire rate and ended up with a 40.00% hire rate. There were 34 females that separated in this category due to resignation, layoff and temporary appointments ending.

### Racial or Ethnic Minorities

In the 2022 – 2024 Affirmative Action Plan, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture was disparate in racial and ethnic minorities in the Professionals and Service Maintenance categories. Throughout the plan years, the Agency did not meet the underutilization goal.

For the Professionals category, the Agency hired or promoted 142 people and 13 were racial or ethnic minorities. The goal was to hire 13.34% and ended up with a 9.15% hire rate. The Agency did have a very low percentage of racial and ethnic minorities separate during the previous plan. There were 51 individuals in the Professionals category that separated and only 4 were racial or ethnic minorities.

For the Service Maintenance category, the Agency hired or promoted 75 people and 3 were racial or ethnic minorities. Th goal was to hire 6.23% and ended up at a 4.00% hire rate. The Agency did have a very low percentage of racial and ethnic minorities separate during the previous plan. There were 86 individuals in the Service Maintenance category that separated and only 5 were identified as a racial or ethnic minority. Additionally, those 5 individuals left due to layoff or a temporary position ending.

### Persons with Disabilities

In the 2022 – 2024 Affirmative Action Plan, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture was not disparate in any category for persons with disabilities.

### Separations Analysis

[Appendix B. Separation Analysis](#) shows the results by separation type and the protected group during the prior affirmative action plan period to evaluate and identify potential action area(s) for retention strategies for the 2024-2026 plan year.

**Table 3. Separation Analysis**

Separation Type	Females	Racial or Ethnic Minorities	Persons with Disabilities
Dismissal or Non-Certification	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Resignation	54.29%	** .**%	** .**%
Enhanced Separation	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Retirement	48.15%	** .**%	** .**%
Death	** .**%	0.00%	0.00%
Lay-off	47.83%	** .**%	** .**%
Termination without Rights	40.66%	** .**%	16.48%
Total Separations	45.76%	7.91%	12.99%

## Utilization and Comparison of Employees to Availability

Utilization is an analysis of affirmative action and equal opportunity employment data used to assess the available workforce for a given state.

Underutilization Analysis worksheets are attached in the appendices. Numbers less than 10 are indicated with “<10” in accordance with Minnesota Management and Budget’s guidance on data privacy.

Through the utilization and availability analysis, the agency has determined which job categories are underutilized for females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities in the agency and has set hiring goals for the next two years. Hiring goals are objective and used for making good faith efforts for all aspects of the affirmative action plan. Effective hiring goals are strategic, actionable, and measurable efforts the agency is committed to pursuing and implementing in 2024-2026.

The goals are not quotas, nor do they require protected group status-based hiring preferences. They are aspirational goals so that the agency makes good faith efforts to remove barriers to equal employment opportunity.

The agency used the whole person rule to establish a hiring goal. This means when the actual representation percentage of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities is less than reasonably would be expected given the workforce participation in the labor market area or reasonable recruitment area and that difference is at least one whole person (more than 1), then a goal is established for that job category.

When a hiring goal for a job category is established, a percentage goal equals to the final availability percentage is calculated for females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities in that job category.

In Appendix F. the Utilization Goals indicates if a job category by protected group is underutilized.

Area(s) in the agency’s workforce that require further monitoring appear in the “Establish Goals?” column as:

- “Yes”: there is underutilization.
- “Monitor”: the agency needs to monitor the job it may be underutilized where employee movement occurs.

In Table 2. Hiring Goals by Job Category and Protected Group, if a protected group in a job category shows “Monitor,” the agency will proactively make good faith efforts to recruit external qualified protected groups. The agency will also train and retain employees in the job category to help prevent underutilization due to an employee move or attrition.

Refer to Appendix F. Utilization-Goals for details for underutilization and hiring goals. [

The agency has a summary of hiring goals by job category and protected group. The actions the agency will take to address these hiring goals will be described in the goals, objectives, and timetables section.

**Table 4. 2024-2026 Hiring Goals by Job Category and Protected Group**

Job Category	Females	Racial or Ethnic Minorities	Persons with Disabilities
Officials and Managers	Monitor	-	-
Professionals	-	Yes	-
Technicians	Yes	-	-
Paraprofessionals	Monitor	Monitor	-
Administrative Support	-	-	-
Service Maintenance	Yes	Yes	-

## Goals, Objectives, and Timetables

Minnesota Administrative Rules, section 3905.0400, subpart 1, item G and item H, Minnesota Administrative Rules, section 3905.0600, subpart 4, subpart 5, and subpart 6.

### Goals:

This Affirmative Action Plan shall establish goals for each goal unit by protected group. The goals must be based on a comparison of the composition of the agency or agency subdivision work force with the composition of the relevant civilian labor force in an identified labor market area. If the comparison shows that a goal unit underutilizes a protected group, the agency head shall establish a goal for that group in that goal unit.

**Definition:** Goal is a broad statement about the long-term expectation of what should happen as a result of your program (the desired result). Serves as the foundation for developing your program objectives.

### Objectives:

The agency’s affirmative action plan will identify and describe the methods for developing programs and program objectives designed to meet affirmative action goals. to implement the provisions of this affirmative action plan and meet requirements found in These Action-Oriented Programs are carried out throughout this affirmative action plan period.

**Definition:** Objectives are statements describing the results to be achieved, and the manner in which they will be achieved. You usually need multiple objectives to address a single goal.

**Timetables:**

This Affirmative Action plan also establishes timetables for meeting goals and objectives. Timetables must be based on turnover and hire rates within each goal unit in the agency or within each agency subdivision.



## Goals, Objectives, and Timetables by Protected Group

### Females:

Goals	Objectives	Timetables
<p>Increase the number of females that apply to positions in the Technicians and Service Maintenance category.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the amount of recruitment efforts targeting females for jobs in the Technicians and Service Maintenance category.</li> <li>• Research where females commonly look for and apply for positions.</li> <li>• Encourage divisions to allot money to paid recruitment.</li> <li>• Increase supervisor/manager awareness of recruitment efforts targeting females.</li> </ul>	<p>Within the two-year plan year</p>
<p>Develop creative recruitment strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize social media more thoroughly.</li> <li>• Create inclusive images and language to target females in the Technicians and Service Maintenance category.</li> <li>• Survey divisions to determine if they budget for paid advertising and, if so, find out how the funds are being used.</li> <li>• Analyze current recruiting processes and procedures to identify areas for improvement.</li> <li>• Create success stories about females in these roles and promote them publicly through social media or other media.</li> </ul>	<p>Within the two-year plan year</p>

Goals	Objectives	Timetables
<p>Increase the awareness of current and future openings to current staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine how staff hear about job openings.</li> <li>• For individuals who don't have access to the Intranet, figure out how to provide information to them about job opportunities at the agency.</li> <li>• Continue to promote individuals to sign up for MDA Jobs Opening email notifications.</li> <li>• Provide information and education to feeder jobs about possible promotional opportunities and how to be successful when applying.</li> </ul>	<p>Within the two-year plan year</p>
<p>Maintain low turnover rate of females in all job categories and reduce the amount of turnover of females in the Professionals category.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an inclusive work environment by creating programming and communicating DEI initiatives to staff.</li> <li>• Create and/encourage peer to peer recognition and appreciation.</li> <li>• Finalize and promote agency 2 week, 3 month and 6 month engagement conversations.</li> </ul>	<p>Within the two-year plan year</p>

## Racial or Ethnic Minorities:

Goals	Objectives	Timetables
<p>Increase the number of racial and ethnic minorities that apply to positions in the Professionals and Service Maintenance categories.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the amount of recruitment efforts targeting racial and ethnic minorities for jobs in the Professionals and Service and Maintenance categories</li> <li>• Research where ethnic and racial minorities commonly look for and apply for positions.</li> <li>• Encourage divisions to allot money to paid recruitment.</li> <li>• Increase supervisor/manager awareness of recruitment efforts targeting racial and ethnic minorities.</li> </ul>	<p>Within the two-year plan year</p>
<p>Create relationships with racial and ethnic minority groups and stakeholders to partner in job filling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research agriculture specific groups with a racial and ethnic minority focus.</li> <li>• Attend career fairs focusing on recruiting racial and ethnic minorities.</li> <li>• Communicate and encourage divisions to utilize and create relationships with groups and associations focusing on racial and ethnic minorities.</li> </ul>	<p>Within the two-plan year</p>
<p>Maintain low turnover rate of racial and ethnic minorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an inclusive work environment by creating programming and communicating DEI initiatives to staff.</li> <li>• Create and/encourage peer to peer recognition and appreciation.</li> <li>• Encourage participation in State ERGs.</li> <li>• Finalize and promote agency 2 week, 3 month and 6 month engagement conversations.</li> </ul>	<p>Within the two-year plan year</p>

Goals	Objectives	Timetables
<p>Develop creative recruitment strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize social media more thoroughly.</li> <li>• Create inclusive images and language to target racial and ethnic minorities in the Professionals and Service and Maintenance categories.</li> <li>• Survey divisions to determine if they budget for paid advertising and if so find out how the funds are being used.</li> <li>• Analyze current recruiting processes and procedures to identify areas for improvement.</li> <li>• Create success stories about Racial and Ethnic Minorities in these roles and promote them publicly through social media or other media.</li> </ul>	<p>Within the two-year plan year</p>
<p>Increase the awareness of current and future openings to current staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine how staff hear about job openings.</li> <li>• For individuals who don't have access to the Intranet, figure out how to provide information to them about job opportunities at the agency.</li> <li>• Continue to promote individuals to sign up for MDA Jobs Opening email notifications.</li> <li>• Provide information and education to feeder jobs about possible promotional opportunities and how to be successful when applying.</li> </ul>	<p>Within the two-year plan year</p>

## Persons with Disabilities

Goals	Objectives	Timetables
<p>Maintain low turnover rates of persons with disabilities in all job categories and reduce the amount of turnover of persons with disabilities in the Professionals category.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an inclusive work environment by creating programming and communicating DEI initiatives to staff.</li> <li>• Create and/encourage peer to peer recognition and appreciation.</li> </ul>	<p>Within the two-year plan year</p>
<p>Continue our hiring practices for persons with disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure we continue to reach out to disability groups while recruiting.</li> <li>• Attend Disability focused career fairs.</li> </ul>	<p>Within the two-year plan year</p>

## Barriers to Achieving Goals and Objectives:

The agency has constraints to address underutilization and areas for monitoring identified in the previous section.

- Unwillingness of employees to self-identify. This affects the representation of employees in protected groups.
- Limited diverse applicants in rural areas of the state.
- Physically demanding positions may deter some applicants from applying.
- Many of our hires are temporary in nature and/or work for short periods of time which reduces the applicant pool. They are also paid at a lower wage and are not benefits eligible. These positions typically in the Service Maintenance, Technicians and Paraprofessionals job categories.
- Due to the smaller size of MDA, our job categories can become disparate by the movement of just one or two employees.
- MDA does not have centralized funding for recruitment and divisions are expected to fund any paid recruitment.

## Recruitment, Retention, and Training

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Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 43A.191, subdivision 3, (c), (1) and (2).

### Recruitment

The agency will demonstrate a good faith effort to build a coordinated plan to recruit and retain qualified females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities.

- The agency will continue to place advertisements of job opportunities through [the State of MN Career site \(https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/search-for-jobs/\)](https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/search-for-jobs/).
- The agency will continue to place advertisements of job opportunities though the [MMB Workforce Community Email List \(wfcomm.MMB@state.mn.us\)](mailto:wfcomm.MMB@state.mn.us).
- Continue to consider females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities applicants for all positions for which they qualify.
- Broadly announce all promotional and transfer opportunities.
- Participate in virtual and in person job fairs to recruit females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities.
- Advertise the Connect 700 program to attract qualified persons with disabilities by providing a link to MMB's web site.
- Continue to use the EEO tag line on all job postings and advertisements.

- Continue to publish recruitment materials and media depicting individuals representing protected groups.
- Review/evaluate job postings to eliminate non-inclusive language.
- Utilize programs like Right Track, Step Up, Urban Scholar, and Star of the North Fellows.
- Review data warehouse reports that show recruitment sources to analyze where individuals are finding our positions.
- Continue to send an annual email to all agency employees encouraging them to enter their self-identification information in Self Service.
- Continue to include an interview question around diversity, equity and inclusion during the hiring process.
- Continue to review minimum and preferred qualifications to ensure they are inclusive and tied to job responsibilities so that they do not eliminate or deter candidates from applying.
- Continue to include in new and current Position Descriptions the responsibilities that highlight the MDA's goals towards diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Communicate and engage hiring managers/supervisors in the commitment of the MDA to have a diverse workforce.
- The agency will advertise for appropriate positions on Handshake and the agency LinkedIn website to attract candidates.
- Encourage supervisors to utilize the MDA Recruitment Guide that outlines diversity websites and print ad locations to target disparate groups of individuals.
- Grow MDA's online following so that organizational information and our vacant positions are reaching a broad audience.

#### Name of individual(s) responsible

- All MDA supervisors and managers
- Mandy Papenguth, HR Director 3
- Sherry Thomas, HR Director 1
- Tracy Ohmann, HR Consultant 1
- Jennifer Romero, HR Specialist 3
- Becky Hierlinger, HR Consultant 1 & AA Officer
- Lauren Daniels, HR Tech 2
- Shaun Beauchem, HR Tech 2
- Sabrenia Young, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator

## Retention

The agency will take the following actions to improve retention of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities:

- Prepare and share annual exit survey summary data with leadership so that divisions can address issues and concerns.
- Utilize the agency's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee for retention ideas and strategies.
- Provide a comprehensive new employee orientation program that allows employees an opportunity to provide feedback.
- Encourage all new hires to receive applicable trainings for their career development.
- Ensure an inclusive work environment and equal opportunities for all employees.
- Create an agency mentor-mentee program.
- Develop and communicate to employees' leadership ladder/succession planning.
- Educate staff on State ERG's and how to get involved.
- Provide training to supervisors and managers on appropriate and effective onboarding.
  - Continue to update and edit MDA's onboarding checklist and resources for supervisors, managers and new employees.
  - Provide employee engagement questions for supervisors to ask employees at two weeks, 3 months and 6 months.
- Provide a flexible and supportive work environment by offering options such as teleworking, alternative work schedules, part time work schedules when requested/appropriate.
- Ensure employees are made aware of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and the resources that are available from the EAP.
- Ensure employees are made aware of Lifestyle Benefits through the EAP.
- Encourage employees to provide feedback using the [Feedback Form](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=RrAU68QkGUWPJricIVmCifbH0rrybA9KtaYLIVUf-ZIUNzBHOTFSQUtRR0laM1AwRDAwRVY3NjJJRS4u) (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=RrAU68QkGUWPJricIVmCifbH0rrybA9KtaYLIVUf-ZIUNzBHOTFSQUtRR0laM1AwRDAwRVY3NjJJRS4u>).
- Recognize good performance and reinforce positive performance.
  - Utilize and promote the agency Achievement Award program and ensure all employees understand the program.
  - Conduct annual performance reviews.
  - Promote the Commissioner's Commendations Recognition Policy to ensure all staff are aware of the policy and how to submit recognition nominations.



- Provide service awards to employees as a way of recognizing employee length of service to the State of Minnesota.
- Set clear expectations in position descriptions for employees and provide them with regular feedback.
- Provide information and education to feeder jobs about possible promotional opportunities and how to be successful when applying.
  - Conduct training for employees annually called MDA Career Development.
- Encourage employees to sign up for the [Job Opening Notifications listserv \(https://mn365.sharepoint.com/sites/MDA/hr/SiteAssets/SitePages/Job%20Openings/Job%20Opening%20Notifications.pdf\)](https://mn365.sharepoint.com/sites/MDA/hr/SiteAssets/SitePages/Job%20Openings/Job%20Opening%20Notifications.pdf) to receive an email whenever a new job is added.
- The Human Resources Division will work with supervisors and managers who have employees serving a probationary period to ensure employees are successful. Recommendations may include, but not limited to:
  - Additional training and education
  - Setting clear expectations, goals and objectives
  - Having weekly progress meetings
  - Creating Individual Development Plans
  - Conducting two probationary reviews during the probationary period that outlines any improvements needed
  - Recommending the Employee Assistance Program when appropriate
  - Extending the probationary period when appropriate

### Name of individual(s) responsible

- All MDA supervisors and managers
- Mandy Papenguth, HR Director 3
- Sherry Thomas, HR Director 1
- Tracy Ohmann, HR Consultant 1
- Jennifer Romero, HR Specialist 3
- Becky Hierlinger, HR Consultant 1 & AA Officer

### Training

The agency will take the following actions to improve retention of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities.

- Provide quality on-boarding orientations.
- Announce training opportunities to all employees.

- Broadly announce all Agency postings to current staff.
- All divisions are represented on the DEI committee and share information and learning to their divisions.
- Provide unconscious bias training to all employees.
- Ensure all new hires receive inclusive workplace e-learning training.
- Ensure the accessibility of learning modules.
- Provide facilitation in the Intercultural Development Inventory to units/division as requested.
- Broadly announce all training opportunities that further DEI work.
- Provide ADA and workplace safety training and resources to supervisors and managers.
- Require employees to take MDA created Diversity and Inclusion in Agriculture training.
- Build a common understanding of equity work among MDA staff, leadership, and stakeholders through training and development opportunities and agency communications.
- Build supervisor and manager competency with HR tools for Assessing and Setting Qualifications and Fostering Inclusion and Cultural Competence in the Selection Process.
- Offer MDA Career Development Training to current employees.

#### Name of individual(s) responsible

- Mandy Papenguth, HR Director 3
- Sherry Thomas, HR Director 1
- Becky Hierlinger, HR Consultant 1 and AA Officer
- Cathy Konopa, Employee Development Coordinator
- Anthony Becker, Safety Administrator

## Disability Recruitment, Hiring, and Advancement

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Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 43A.191, subdivision 2 (d), subdivision 2a (b) (1) and (2), (c) (1) to (5).

This section identifies ways the agency will provide assurances, procedures, and commitments to provide adequate hiring, placement, and advancement opportunities for persons with disabilities. It must describe specific actions to ensure that a broad range of persons with disabilities will be aware of and be encouraged to apply for job vacancies when eligible:

1. The use of programs and resources that identify job applicants with disabilities who are eligible to be appointed under a hiring authority that takes disability into account, consistent with the demonstration program under section [43A.15, subdivision 14](#).
  - MDA promotes and considers C700 applicants for all unlimited, classified positions that are posted. All C700 candidates who meet the minimum qualifications of posted positions for which they applied are routed to the hiring supervisor to conduct a C700 Interview. Hiring supervisors collaborate with our ADA Coordinate to offer C700 applicants appropriate accommodations for the interview.
2. Establishment and maintenance of contacts, that may include formal agreements, with organizations that specialize in providing assistance to persons with disabilities in securing and maintaining employment.
  - Emailing our positions to the MMB Community Listserv that gets routed to organizations and groups like the Disability Council.
  - ASL Interpreting Services from the State of MN Contract S-884(5) – Sign Language and Interpreting and Related Services.
  - MN STAR program.
3. The plan must ensure that the agency has designated sufficient staff to handle any disability-related issues that arise during the application and selection process, and shall require the agency to provide staff with sufficient training, support, and other resources to carry out the responsibilities
  - Anthony Becker, Safety Administrator
4. Ensuring that disability-related questions from members of the public regarding the agency's application and selection processes are answered promptly and correctly, including questions about reasonable accommodations needed by job applicants during the application and selection process and questions about how individuals may apply for positions under hiring authorities that take disability into account.
  - All MDA job postings include information about who persons with disabilities can contact if they need assistance in searching or applying for jobs. Additionally, MDA HR provides supervisors and managers with an email template to invite applicants for

interview that includes language about how to request a reasonable accommodation for the interview process.

5. Accepting applications for a position under hiring authorities that take disability into account.
  - MDA accepts and considers applications of individuals who are persons with disabilities and who submit a C700 certification to the HR Staffing Specialist during the hiring process. These applications are considered prior to reviewing the competitive candidate pool. If the applicant meets the minimum qualifications, the application materials are routed to the hiring supervisor to schedule a C700 Interview.
6. If an individual has applied for appointment to a particular position under a hiring authority that takes disability into account, determining whether the individual is eligible for appointment under such authority and if so, forwarding the individual's application to the relevant hiring officials with an explanation of how and when the individual may be appointed, consistent with all applicable laws; and
  - If a C700 applicant meets the minimum qualifications, the application materials are routed to the hiring supervisor to schedule a C700 Interview. Hiring supervisors work collaboratively with the ADA Coordinator to ensure any accommodations needed for the interview process are in place. After the C700 Interview, the hiring supervisor contacts their HR Staffing Specialist for guidance on next steps in the process. If the applicant demonstrates that they meet the minimum qualifications during the interview process, the agency makes a job offer into the C700 program.
7. Overseeing any other agency programs designed to increase hiring of individuals with disabilities.
  - MDA looks for and encourages participation in career fairs that focus on hiring persons with disabilities. Additionally, MDA encourages supervisors to sign up for pipeline programs.

## Supported Employment (Worker) Program

This section identifies ways the agency will identify any positions in the agency that can be used for supported employment as defined in section [268A.01, subdivision 13](#), of persons with significant disabilities. The agency shall report this information to the Commissioner or head of the agency. An agency that hires more than one supported worker in the identified positions must receive recognition for each supported worker toward meeting the agency's affirmative action goals and objectives.

- Currently the MDA does not have any positions that would qualify for the Supported Employment (Worker) Program.

## Reasonable Accommodations

This section identifies ways the agency:

1. Provides reasonable accommodations in the hiring and promotion of qualified persons with disabilities.

2. Complies with accessibility standards under 16E.03, Subd. 9
3. Methods and procedures for providing timely access to reasonable accommodations during the application process, throughout current employment, and when seeking promotion.
4. Provisions for funding reasonable accommodations; and
5. The number of requests made, the number of requests approved, and the number of requests reimbursed from the state accommodation account under section [16B.4805](#).

**Table 5. Reasonable Accommodation Requests, Approvals, and Reimbursements for FY22 – FY24**

Number of Requests	Number of Requests Approved	Number of Requests Reimbursed
2	1	0

## **A. Statewide ADA Reasonable Accommodation Policy Statewide HR/LR Policy #1433: ADA Reasonable Accommodation Policy**

### **OVERVIEW**

#### **Objective**

The goals of this policy are:

- To ensure compliance with all applicable state and federal laws;
- To establish a written and readily accessible procedure regarding reasonable accommodation, including providing notice of this policy on all job announcements;
- To provide guidance and resources about reasonable accommodations;
- To provide a respectful interactive process to explore reasonable accommodations; and
- To provide a timely and thorough review process for requests for reasonable accommodation.

#### **Policy Statement**

State agencies must comply with all state and federal laws that prohibit discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities in all employment practices. All state agencies must provide reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants and employees with disabilities unless to do so would cause an undue hardship or pose a direct threat. Agencies must provide reasonable accommodation when:

- A qualified applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to compete for a job;
- A qualified employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential functions of the employee’s job; and
- A qualified employee with a disability needs an accommodation to enjoy equal access to benefits and privileges of employment (e.g., trainings, office sponsored events).

#### **Scope**

This policy applies to all employees of the Executive Branch and classified employees in the Office of Legislative Auditor, Minnesota State Retirement System, Public Employee Retirement System, and Teachers' Retirement System.

## Definitions

**Applicant** - A person who expresses interest in employment and satisfies the minimum requirements for application established by the job posting and job description.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator** - Each agency is required to appoint an ADA coordinator or designee, depending on agency size, to direct and coordinate agency compliance with Title I of the ADA.

**Direct Threat** - A significant risk of substantial harm to the health or safety of the individual or others that cannot be eliminated or reduced by reasonable accommodation.

The determination that an individual poses a direct threat shall be based on an individualized assessment of the individual's present ability to safely perform the essential functions of the job.

**Essential Functions** - Duties so fundamental that the individual cannot do the job without being able to perform them. A function can be essential if:

- The job exists specifically to perform the function(s); or
- There are a limited number of other employees who could perform the function(s); or
- The function(s) is/are specialized, and the individual is hired based on the employee's expertise.

**Interactive Process** - A discussion between the employer and the individual with a disability to determine an effective reasonable accommodation for the individual with a disability. To be interactive, both sides must communicate and exchange information.

**Individual with a Disability** - An individual who:

- Has a physical, sensory, or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; or
- Has a record or history of such impairment; or
- Is regarded as having such impairment.

**Qualified Individual with a Disability** - An individual who:

- Satisfies the requisite skill, experience, education, and other job-related requirements of the job that the individual holds or desires; and
- Can perform the essential functions of the position with or without reasonable accommodation.

**Major Life Activities** - May include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.

Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including but not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.

**Medical Documentation** - Information from the requestor's treating provider which is sufficient to enable the employer to determine whether an individual has a disability and whether and what type of reasonable accommodation is needed when the disability or the need for accommodation is not obvious. Medical documentation can be requested using the standardized [Letter Requesting Documentation for Determining ADA Eligibility from a Medical Provider](#).

**Reasonable Accommodation** - An adjustment or alteration that enables a qualified individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties, or enjoy the benefits and privileges of employment. Reasonable accommodations may include:

- Modifications or adjustments to a job application process to permit a qualified individual with a disability to be considered for a job; or
- Modifications or adjustments to enable a qualified individual with a disability to perform the essential functions of the job; or
- Modifications or adjustments that enable qualified employees with disabilities to enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment.

Modifications or adjustments may include, but are not limited to:

- Providing materials in alternative formats like large print or Braille;
- Providing assistive technology, including information technology and communications equipment, or specially designed furniture;
- Modifying work schedules or supervisory methods;
- Granting breaks or providing leave;
- Altering how or when job duties are performed;
- Removing and/or substituting a marginal function;
- Moving to a different office space;
- Providing telework;
- Making changes in workplace policies;
- Providing a reader or other staff assistant to enable employees to perform their job functions, where a reasonable accommodation cannot be provided by current staff;
- Removing an architectural barrier, including reconfiguring work spaces;

- Providing accessible parking;
- Providing a sign language interpreter; or
- Providing a reassignment to a vacant position.

**Reassignment** - Reassignment to a vacant position for which an employee is qualified is a “last resort” form of a reasonable accommodation. This type of accommodation must be provided to an employee, who, because of a disability, can no longer perform the essential functions of the position, with or without reasonable accommodation, unless the employer can show that it will be an undue hardship.

**Support Person** - Any person an individual with a disability identifies to help during the reasonable accommodation process in terms of filling out paperwork, attending meetings during the interactive process to take notes or ask clarifying questions, or to provide emotional support.

**Undue Hardship** - A specific reasonable accommodation would require significant difficulty or expense. Undue hardship is always determined on a case-by-case basis considering factors that include the nature and cost of the accommodation requested and the impact of the accommodation on the operations of the agency. A state agency is not required to provide accommodations that would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the agency.

## **Exclusions**

N/A

## **Statutory References**

- [Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title 29 USC 701](#)
- [Americans with Disabilities Act \(1990\)](#)
- [29 C.F.R. 1630, Regulations to Implement the Equal Employment Provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#)

## **GENERAL STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **Individuals who may request a reasonable accommodation include:**

- Any qualified applicant with a disability who needs assistance with the job application procedure or the interview or selection process; or
- Any qualified agency employee with a disability who needs a reasonable accommodation to perform the essential functions of the position; or
- A third party, such as a family member, friend, health professional or other representative, on behalf of a qualified applicant or employee with a disability, when the applicant or employee is unable to make the request for reasonable accommodation. When possible, the agency must contact the applicant or employee to confirm that the accommodation is wanted. The applicant or employee has the discretion to accept or reject the proposed accommodation.



The agency must abide by the [Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Chapter 13](#), in obtaining or sharing information related to accommodation requests.

### **How to request a reasonable accommodation**

An agency applicant or employee may make a reasonable accommodation request to any or all of the following:

- Immediate supervisor or manager in the employee's chain of command;
- Agency Affirmative Action Officer/Designee;
- Agency ADA Coordinator;
- Agency Human Resources Office;
- Any agency official with whom the applicant has contact during the application, interview and/or selection process.

### **Timing of the request**

An applicant or employee may request a reasonable accommodation at any time, even if the individual has not previously disclosed the existence of a disability or the need for an accommodation. A request is any communication in which an individual asks or states that he or she needs the agency to provide or change something because of a medical condition.

The reasonable accommodation process begins as soon as possible after the request for accommodation is made.

### **Form of the request**

The applicant or employee is responsible for requesting a reasonable accommodation or providing sufficient notice to the agency that an accommodation is needed.

An initial request for accommodation may be made in any manner (e.g., writing, electronically, in person or orally).

The individual requesting an accommodation does not have to use any special words and does not have to mention the ADA or use the phrase "reasonable accommodation" or "disability."

Oral requests must be documented in writing to ensure efficient processing of requests.

Agency request forms can be found at: "[Employee/Applicant Request for Reasonable Accommodation Form](#)".

When a supervisor or manager observes or receives information indicating that an employee is experiencing difficulty performing the job due to a medical condition or disability, further inquiry may be required. Supervisors or managers should consult with the agency ADA Coordinator for advice on how to proceed.

When an employee needs the same reasonable accommodation on a repeated basis (e.g., the assistance of a sign language interpreter), a written request for accommodation is required the first time only. However, the employee requesting an accommodation must give appropriate advance

notice each subsequent time the accommodation is needed. If the accommodation is needed on a regular basis (e.g., a weekly staff meeting), the agency must make appropriate arrangements without requiring a request in advance of each occasion.

### **The interactive process entails**

Communication is a priority and encouraged throughout the entire reasonable accommodation process. The interactive process is a collaborative process between the employee and/or applicant and the agency to explore and identify specific reasonable accommodation(s). (For information on the Interactive Process see the U.S. Department of Labor, Job Accommodation Network at <http://askjan.org/topics/interactive.htm>). This process is required when:

- The need for a reasonable accommodation is not obvious;
- The specific limitation, problem or barrier is unclear;
- An effective reasonable accommodation is not obvious;
- The parties are considering different forms of reasonable accommodation;
- The medical condition changes or fluctuates; or,
- There are questions about the reasonableness of the requested accommodation.

The interactive process should begin as soon as possible after a request for reasonable accommodation is made or the need for accommodation becomes known.

The process should ensure a full exchange of relevant information and communication between the individual and the agency. An individual may request that the agency ADA Coordinator, a union representative, or support person be present.

The agency ADA Coordinator shall be consulted when:

- Issues, conflicts or questions arise in the interactive process; and
- Prior to denying a request for accommodation.

### **Agency responsibilities for processing the request**

As the first step in processing a request for reasonable accommodation, the person who receives the request must promptly forward the request to the appropriate decision maker. At the same time, the recipient will notify the requestor who the decision maker is.

#### **Commissioner**

The commissioner of the agency or agency head has the ultimate responsibility to ensure compliance with the ADA and this policy and appoint an ADA Coordinator.

#### **ADA Coordinator**

The agency ADA Coordinator is the agency's decision maker for reasonable accommodation requests for all types of requests outside of the supervisors' and managers' authority. The agency ADA

Coordinator will work with the supervisor and manager, and where necessary, with agency Human Resources, to implement the approved reasonable accommodation.

### Supervisors and Managers

Agencies have the authority to designate the level of management approval needed for reasonable accommodation requests for low-cost purchases. For example:

Requests for standard office equipment that is needed as a reasonable accommodation and adaptive items costing less than \$100. [Agencies can adjust the dollar amount based on their needs]; and

Requests for a change in a condition of employment such as modified duties, or a change in schedule, or the location and size of an employee's workspace. [Agencies can choose to delegate specific requests to supervisors or managers or require these types of requests to work through the agency ADA Coordinator].

### Analysis for processing requests

Before approving or denying a request for accommodation, the agency decision maker with assistance from the agency ADA Coordinator will:

1. Determine if the requestor is a qualified individual with a disability;
2. Determine if the accommodation is needed to:
  - Enable a qualified applicant with a disability to be considered for the position the individual desires;
  - Enable a qualified employee with a disability to perform the essential functions of the position; or
  - Enable a qualified employee with a disability to enjoy equal benefits or privileges of employment as similarly situated employees without disabilities;
3. Determine whether the requested accommodation is reasonable;
4. Determine whether there is a reasonable accommodation that will be effective for the requestor and the agency; and
5. Determine whether the reasonable accommodation will impose an undue hardship on the agency's operations.

An employee's accommodation preference is always seriously considered, but the agency is not obligated to provide the requestor's accommodation of choice, so long as it offers an effective accommodation, or determines that accommodation would cause an undue hardship.

### Obtaining medical documentation in connection with a request for reasonable accommodation

In some cases, the disability and need for accommodation will be reasonably evident or already known, for example, where an employee is blind. In these cases, the agency will not seek further medical documentation. If a requestor's disability and/or need for reasonable accommodation are not obvious or already known, the agency ADA Coordinator may require medical information showing that the

requestor has a covered disability that requires accommodation. The agency ADA Coordinator may request medical information in certain other circumstances. For example, when:

- The information submitted by the requestor is insufficient to document the disability or the need for the accommodation;
- A question exists as to whether an individual is able to perform the essential functions of the position, with or without reasonable accommodation; or
- A question exists as to whether the employee will pose a direct threat to himself/herself or others.

Where medical documentation is necessary, the agency ADA Coordinator must make the request and use the [Letter Requesting Documentation for Determining ADA Eligibility from a Medical Provider](#). The agency ADA Coordinator must also obtain the requestor's completed and signed [Authorization for Release of Medical Information](#) before sending the Letter to, or otherwise communicating with, the medical provider. The employee may choose not to sign the Authorization. However, if the employee chooses not to sign the Authorization, it is the employee's responsibility to ensure that the agency receives the requested medical information.

Only medical documentation specifically related to the employee's request for accommodation and ability to perform the essential functions of the position will be requested. When medical documentation or information is appropriately requested, an employee must provide it in a timely manner, or the agency may deny the reasonable accommodation request. Agencies must not request medical records; medical records are not appropriate documentation and cannot be accepted.

**Supervisors and managers *must not* request medical information or documentation from an applicant or employee seeking an accommodation.** Such a request will be made by the agency ADA Coordinator, if appropriate.

## Confidentiality requirements

### Medical Information

Medical information obtained in connection with the reasonable accommodation process must be kept confidential. All medical information obtained in connection with such requests must be collected and maintained on separate forms and in separate physical or electronic files from non-medical personnel files and records. Electronic copies of medical information obtained in connection with the reasonable accommodation process must be stored so that access is limited to only the agency ADA Coordinator. Physical copies of such medical information must be stored in a locked cabinet or office when not in use or unattended. Generally, medical documentation obtained in connection with the reasonable accommodation process should only be reviewed by the agency ADA Coordinator.

The agency ADA Coordinator may disclose medical information obtained in connection with the reasonable accommodation process to the following:

- Supervisors, managers or agency HR staff who have a need to know may be told about the necessary work restrictions and about the accommodations necessary to perform the employee's duties. However, information about the employee's medical condition should only be disclosed if strictly necessary, such as for safety reasons;

- First aid and safety personnel may be informed, when appropriate, if the employee may require emergency treatment or assistance in an emergency evacuation;
- To consult with the State ADA Coordinator or Employment Law Counsel at MMB, or the Attorney General's Office about accommodation requests, denial of accommodation requests or purchasing of specific assistive technology or other resources; or
- Government officials assigned to investigate agency compliance with the ADA.

Whenever medical information is appropriately disclosed as described above, the recipients of the information must comply with all confidentiality requirements.

### **Accommodation Information**

The fact that an individual is receiving an accommodation because of a disability is confidential and may only be shared with those individuals who have a need to know for purposes of implementing the accommodation, such as the requestor's supervisor and the agency ADA Coordinator.

### **General Information**

General summary information regarding an employee's or applicant's status as an individual with a disability may be collected by agency equal opportunity officials to maintain records and evaluate and report on the agency's performance in hiring, retention, and processing reasonable accommodation requests.

### **Approval of requests for reasonable accommodation**

As soon as the decision maker determines that a reasonable accommodation will be provided, the agency ADA Coordinator will process the request and provide the reasonable accommodation in as short of a timeframe as possible. The time necessary to process a request will depend on the nature of the accommodation requested and whether it is necessary to obtain supporting information. If an approved accommodation cannot be provided within a reasonable time, the decision maker will inform the requestor of the status of the request before the end of 30 days. Where feasible, if there is a delay in providing the request, temporary measures will be taken to provide assistance.

Once approved, the reasonable accommodation should be documented for record keeping purposes and the records maintained by the agency ADA Coordinator.

### **Funding for reasonable accommodations**

The agency must specify how the agency will pay for reasonable accommodations.

### **Procedures for reassignment as a reasonable accommodation**

Reassignment to a vacant position is an accommodation that must be considered if there are no effective reasonable accommodations that would enable the employee to perform the essential functions of his/her current job, or if all other reasonable accommodations would impose an undue hardship.

The agency ADA Coordinator will work with agency Human Resources staff and the requestor to identify appropriate vacant positions within the agency for which the employee may be qualified and

can perform the essential functions of the vacant position, with or without reasonable accommodation. Vacant positions which are equivalent to the employee's current job in terms of pay, status, and other relevant factors will be considered first. If there are none, the agency will consider vacant lower-level positions for which the individual is qualified. The EEOC recommends that the agency consider positions that are currently vacant or will be coming open within at least the next 60 days.

### **Denial of requests for reasonable accommodation**

The agency ADA Coordinator must be contacted for assistance and guidance prior to denying any request for reasonable accommodation. The agency may deny a request for reasonable accommodation where:

- The individual is not a qualified individual with a disability;
- The reasonable accommodation results in undue hardship or the individual poses a direct threat to the individual or others. Undue hardship and direct threat are determined on a case-by-case basis with guidance from the agency ADA Coordinator; or
- Where no reasonable accommodation, including reassignment to a vacant position, will enable the employee to perform all the essential functions of the job.

The explanation for denial must be provided to the requestor in writing. The explanation should be written in plain language and clearly state the specific reasons for denial. Where the decision maker has denied a specific requested accommodation, but has offered a different accommodation in its place, the decision letter should explain both the reasons for denying the accommodation requested and the reasons that the accommodation being offered will be effective.

### **Consideration of undue hardship**

An interactive process must occur prior to the agency making a determination of undue hardship. Determination of undue hardship is made on a case-by-case basis and only after consultation with the agency's ADA Coordinator. In determining whether granting a reasonable accommodation will cause an undue hardship, the agency considers factors such as the nature and cost of the accommodation in relationship to the size and resources of the agency and the impact the accommodation will have on the operations of the agency.

Agencies may deny reasonable accommodations based upon an undue hardship. Prior to denying reasonable accommodation requests due to lack of financial resources, the agency will consult with the State ADA Coordinator at MMB.

### **Determining direct threat**

The determination that an individual poses a "direct threat," (i.e., a significant risk of substantial harm to the health or safety of the individual or others) which cannot be eliminated or reduced by a reasonable accommodation, must be based on an individualized assessment of the individual's present ability to safely perform the essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodation. A determination that an individual poses a direct threat cannot be based on fears, misconceptions, or

stereotypes about the individual's disability. Instead, the agency must make a reasonable medical judgment, relying on the most current medical knowledge and the best available objective evidence.

In determining whether an individual poses a direct threat, the factors to be considered include:

- Duration of the risk;
- Nature and severity of the potential harm;
- Likelihood that the potential harm will occur; and
- Imminence of the potential harm.

### **Appeals process in the event of denial**

In addition to providing the requestor with the reasons for denial of a request for reasonable accommodation, agencies must designate a process for review when an applicant or employee chooses to appeal the denial of a reasonable accommodation request. This process:

- Must include review by an agency official;
- May include review by the State ADA Coordinator; and/or
- Must inform the requestor of the statutory right to file a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

### **Information tracking and records retention**

Agencies must track reasonable accommodations requested and report once a year by September 1st to MMB the number and types of accommodations requested, approved, denied and other relevant information.

Agencies must retain reasonable accommodation documentation according to the agency's document retention schedule, but in all cases for at least one year from the date the record is made, or the personnel action involved is taken, whichever occurs later. 29 C.F.R. § 1602.14.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Agencies are responsible for the request:

- Adoption and implementation of this policy and development of reasonable accommodation procedures consistent with the guidance in this document.

MMB is responsible for:

- Provide advice and assistance to state agencies and maintain this policy.

## **FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS**

Please review the following forms:

- [Employee/Applicant Request for ADA Reasonable Accommodation](#)
- [Authorization of Release of Medical Information for ADA Reasonable Accommodations](#)

- [Letter Requesting Documentation for Determining ADA Eligibility from a Medical Provider](#)

## REFERENCES

- [U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Enforcement Guidance](#)
- Pre-employment Disability-Related Questions and Medical Examinations at 5, 6-8, 20, 21-22, 8 FEP Manual (BNA) 405:7191, 7192-94, 7201 (1995).
- Workers' Compensation and the ADA at 15-20, 8 FEP Manual (BNA) 405:7391, 7398-7401 (1996).
- The Americans with Disabilities Act and Psychiatric Disabilities at 19-28, 8 FEP Manual (BNA) 405:7461, 7470-76 (1997).
- Reasonable Accommodation and Undue Hardship under the Americans with Disabilities Act (October 17, 2002), (clarifies the rights and responsibilities of employers and persons with disabilities regarding reasonable accommodation and undue hardship).
- Disability-Related Inquiries and Medical Examinations of Employees (explains when it is permissible for employers to make disability-related inquiries or require medical examinations of employees).
- Fact Sheet on the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 at 6-9, 8 FEP Manual (BNA) 4055:7371.

The [Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act \(GINA\) of 2008](#) and [M.S. 181.974](#) prohibit employers from using genetic information when making decisions regarding employment.

[Minnesota Human Rights Act \(MHRA\)](#) prohibits employers from treating people differently in employment because of their race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, familial status, disability, public assistance, age, sexual orientation, or local human rights commission activity. The MHRA requires an employer to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified persons with disabilities who are employees or applicants for employment, except when such accommodation would cause undue hardship or where the individual poses a direct threat to the health or safety of the individual or others. The MHRA prohibits requesting or requiring information about an individual's disability prior to a conditional offer of employment.

The [Family and Medical Leave Act](#) is a federal law requiring covered employers to provide eligible employees twelve weeks of job-protected, unpaid leave for qualified medical and family reasons.

[Executive Order 19-15, Providing for Increased Participation of Persons with disabilities in State Employment](#), directs agencies to make efforts to hire more persons with disabilities and report on progress.

## CONTACTS

Equal Opportunity Office at Minnesota Management and Budget



## B. Minnesota Department of Agriculture Employee/Applicant Request for Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) Reasonable Accommodation Form

The [Employee/Applicant Request for Americans with Disabilities Act \(“ADA”\) Reasonable Accommodation Form](https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/equal-opportunity/ada/accommodation-request-form.docx) shown below can be found at <https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/equal-opportunity/ada/accommodation-request-form.docx>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Minnesota Department of Agriculture</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Employee/Applicant Request for Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) Reasonable Accommodation Form</b></p> <p>[AGENCY NAME] is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) and the Minnesota Human Rights Act (“MHRA”). To be eligible for an ADA accommodation, you must be 1) qualified to perform the essential functions of the position and 2) have a disability that substantially or materially limits a major life activity or function. The ADA Coordinator/Designee will review each request on an individualized case-by-case basis to determine whether or not an accommodation can be made.</p> <p>Employee/Applicant Name: _____</p> <p>Job Title: _____</p> <p>Work Location: _____</p> <p>Phone Number: _____</p> <p><b>Data Privacy Statement:</b> This information may be used by the agency human resources representative, ADA Coordinator or designee, or any other individual who is authorized by the agency to receive medical information for purposes of providing reasonable accommodations under the ADA and MHRA. This information is necessary to determine whether you have a disability as defined by the ADA or MHRA, and to determine whether any reasonable accommodation can be made. The provision of this information is strictly voluntary; however, if you refuse to provide it, the agency may not have sufficient information to provide a reasonable accommodation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DO NOT PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION THAT IS NOT RELATED TO YOUR REQUEST FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION. DO NOT PROVIDE COPIES OF MEDICAL RECORDS.</b></p> <p>A. Questions to clarify accommodation requested.</p> <p>1. What specific accommodation are you requesting?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>2. If you are not sure what accommodation is needed, do you have any suggestions about what options we can explore?</p> <p>a. Answer yes or no: _____</p> <p>b. If yes, please explain: _____</p> <p>B. Questions to document the reason for the accommodation request (please attach additional pages if necessary).</p> <p>1. If you are an employee, what, if any, job function are you having difficulty performing; or if you are an applicant, what portion of the application process are you having difficulty participating in?</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 1 of 2 <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Rev. 4/2019</span></p>	<p>2. What, if any, employment benefits are you having difficulty accessing?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>3. What limitation, as result of your physical or mental impairment, is interfering with your ability to perform the functions of your job, access an employment benefit, or participate in the application process?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>4. If you are requesting a specific accommodation, how will that accommodation be effective in allowing you to perform the functions of your job, access an employment benefit, or participate in the application process?</p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>Information Pertaining to Medical Documentation:</b> In the context of assessing an accommodation request, medical documentation may be needed to determine if the employee/applicant has a disability covered by the ADA and to assist in identifying an effective accommodation. The ADA Coordinator or designee in each agency is tasked with collecting necessary medical documentation. In the event that medical documentation is needed, the employee/applicant will be provided with the appropriate forms to submit to their medical provider. The employee/applicant has the responsibility to ensure that the requested information is returned to the ADA Coordinator or designee in a timely manner.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p><b>This form does not cover, and the information to be disclosed should not contain, genetic information. “Genetic Information” includes: information about an individual’s genetic tests; information about genetic tests of an individual’s family members; information about the manifestation of a disease or disorder in an individual’s family members (family medical history); an individual’s request for, or receipt of, genetic services, or the participation in clinical research that includes genetic services by the individual or a family member of the individual; and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or by a pregnant woman who is a family member of the individual and the genetic information of any embryo legally held by the individual or family member using an assisted reproductive technology.</b></p></div> <p>Employee/Applicant Signature: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 2 of 2 <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Rev. 4/2019</span></p>
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## C. Notice Under the Americans with Disabilities Act Title II

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will not discriminate against qualified persons with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

**Employment:** The Minnesota Department of Agriculture does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the ADA.

**Effective Communication:** The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

**Modifications to Policies and Procedures:** The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in Minnesota Department of Agriculture offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, should contact the office of Anthony Becker at [Anthony.becker@state.mn.us](mailto:Anthony.becker@state.mn.us) or 651-201-6640 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Anthony Becker at [Anthony.becker@state.mn.us](mailto:Anthony.becker@state.mn.us) or 651-201-6640.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of persons with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

## D. Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) Title II (non-employee) Reasonable Accommodation/Modification in Public Services, Programs or Activities Request Form

A fillable form is available at <https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/equal-opportunity/ada/ada-accommodation-request-form-title-ii.pdf>.



**\_\_\_\_\_ (Agency)**  
**Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") Title II (non-employee)**  
**Reasonable Accommodation/Modification in Public Services, Programs or Activities**  
**Request Form**

The \_\_\_\_\_ (Agency) is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and the Minnesota Human Rights Act ("MHRHA"). The ADA Coordinator/Designee will review each request on an individualized, case-by-case, basis to determine whether an accommodation or modification can be made. Please do NOT send copies of medical records. The Agency is not authorized to have medical records and is not qualified to interpret medical records.

**General Information**

Date of Request: \_\_\_\_\_

**Person needing accommodation/modification**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Person making request (if different from person needing accommodation/modification)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to person needing accommodation/modification: \_\_\_\_\_

**Accommodation Information**

Date accommodation/modification is needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address and/or room of accommodation/modification: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of accommodation/modification requested (please be specific):  
\_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to be notified of the status of your request?

Phone  Email  Writing  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

If someone else has completed this form on your behalf and you want that person to be notified of the status of your request, please initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

Updated 08/21/2019

All requests for accommodation/modification will be evaluated individually and a response to your request will be provided within one week of receipt.

Check this box to sign this request form electronically.  
By checking this box, I agree my electronic signature is the legal equivalent of my signature.

Signature of Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE USE ONLY**  
**RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ACCOMMODATION/MODIFICATION**

Date request received: \_\_\_\_\_

The request for accommodation/modification is GRANTED. Below is a description of the accommodation/modification:

\_\_\_\_\_

The request for accommodation/modification is DENIED because:

- The requester does not meet the essential eligibility requirements or qualifications for the program, service, or activity, without regard to disability.
- The requested accommodation/modification would impose an undue burden on the agency; and/or
- The requested accommodation/modification would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity.

Requester notified on: (date) \_\_\_\_\_ via: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional notes:  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADA Coordinator:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Updated 08/21/2019

## **E. Minnesota Department of Agriculture Grievance Procedure Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act**

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The Statewide ADA Reasonable Accommodation policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Anthony Becker  
Minnesota Department of Agriculture Safety Administrator  
625 Robert Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-2538

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, Anthony Becker or their designee will meet or communicate with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting or communication, Anthony Becker or their designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant. The response will explain the position of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by Anthony Becker or their designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to Thom Petersen, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture or their designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Thom Petersen or their designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Thom Petersen or their designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by Anthony Becker or their designee, appeals to Thom Petersen or their designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for at least three years.

## F. Evacuation Procedure for Persons with Disabilities or Otherwise in Need of Assistance

A copy of the agency's weather and emergency evacuation plans can be found at: [The Uddernet Policies and Procedures Page](https://mda.dev.apps.state.mn.us/cisdev/Documents/uddernet/boxb/policyprocedures.htm)  
(<https://mda.dev.apps.state.mn.us/cisdev/Documents/uddernet/boxb/policyprocedures.htm>)

Knowledge and preparation by both individuals needing assistance and those who don't are key to reducing the impact of emergencies. When developing a plan, safety needs should be determined on a case-by-case basis because it varies with each individual and building.

Everyone has a responsibility to develop their own personal emergency evacuation plan, this includes persons with disabilities or individuals who will need assistance during evacuation. The Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator or designee in each agency will work to develop a plan and consult the appropriate building and safety personnel.

Directors, managers, and supervisors should review the emergency evacuation procedures with staff, including informing all staff that if additional assistance may be needed, and persons with disabilities should contact the agency contact(s) below to request the type of assistance they may need.

Any persons with disabilities or otherwise in need of additional assistance during an emergency building evacuation or relocation should contact the MDA Safety Administrator / ADA Coordinator at 651 201-6640 or [mda.human-resources@state.mn.us](mailto:mda.human-resources@state.mn.us) to formulate a plan that's specific to their situation. This plan may involve identifying one or more evacuation or relocation assistants to provide aid to the person with disability at a time of emergency.

The Freeman Office Building is equipped with both audible fire alarms and visible flashing strobe lights that are designed to accommodate those with hearing and/or visual disabilities.

Individuals in need of assistance during a building evacuation have the following options.

- **Stairway evacuation:** Individuals who can walk independently may be able to negotiate stairs in an emergency with minor assistance. If able, use one of the three central stairwells to reach the second floor or ground level exits from the Freeman Building. Depending on the situation, individuals may choose to wait until the heavy traffic has cleared before attempting the stairs.
- **Horizontal evacuation:** Individuals may choose to exit the Freeman Building through one of the ground level exits, one of the second floor exits, or through the third-floor skyway leading to the state lab building.
- **Shelter in place:** Individuals can choose to remain in place at their workstation and instruct evacuating employees to notify on-site responders of their location. The shelter in place approach may be more appropriate for an individual who is alone when the alarm sounds. In these circumstances the individual should dial 911 and report their location to emergency services who will in turn relay that information to on-site responders who will be dispatched to the location to facilitate evacuation.

- **Area of rescue assistance:** Individuals may choose to wait at an area of rescue assistance until emergency responders arrive to assist them. The three Freeman Building central stairwells in pods A, B and C have been identified as areas of rescue assistance that can be used by persons with disabilities until rescue can be facilitated by emergency responders.

Individuals in need of assistance during a severe weather relocation have the following options.

- **Ground floor relocation:** If able to negotiate stairs or if located on the ground floor at the time of severe weather emergency, relocate to any of the identified severe weather shelter areas throughout the ground floor and remain there until the all-clear is given.
- **Shelter in place:** Persons with disabilities may choose to seek shelter on any floor of the building in any interior area adjacent to their work location that is away from exterior doors, glass/windows and remain there until the all-clear is given.

#### Name of individual(s) responsible

- **Name:** Anthony Becker
- **Email:** [Anthony.Becker@state.mn.us](mailto:Anthony.Becker@state.mn.us)
- **Title:** Safety Administrator
- **Phone:** 651-201-6640

## **Methods of Auditing, Evaluating, and Reporting Program Success**

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Minnesota Administrative Rules 3905.0400, subpart 1, item I.

### **Pre-Employment Review Procedure/Monitoring the Hiring Process**

The agency will evaluate its selection process to determine if its requirements unnecessarily screen out a disproportionate number of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities. The agency will use the Monitoring the Hiring Process form for every hire to track the number of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities in each stage of the selection process.

Directors, managers, and supervisors will work closely with human resources and the Affirmative Action Officer in reviewing the requirements for the position, posting the position, and interviewing and selection to ensure that equal opportunity and affirmative action are carried out. Directors, managers, and supervisors must document their hiring decisions and equal opportunity professionals will review for bias.

An agency that does not meet its hiring goals for competitive appointments, and noncompetitive appointments under MS 43A.08, subd. 1(9), (11) and (16), and 43A.15, subd. 3, 10, 12, and 13, must justify its non-affirmative action hires. The affirmative action statute was amended in 2019 so agencies can no longer take missed opportunities. The agency will report the number of affirmative and non-affirmative hires to MMB on a quarterly basis.

When candidates are invited to participate in the selection process, employees scheduling the selection process will describe the process to the candidate (e.g., interview process, testing process). All candidates are provided information regarding the procedure to request reasonable accommodations, if necessary, to allow candidates with disabilities equal opportunity to participate in the selection process.

### **Pre-Review Procedure for Layoff Decisions**

The Affirmative Action Officer, in conjunction with the agency's human resources office, is responsible for reviewing all pending layoffs to determine their effect on the agency's affirmative action goals and timetables.

If it is determined that there is a disparate impact on protected groups, the agency will document the reasons why the layoff is occurring, such as positions targeted for layoff, applicable personnel policies or collective bargaining agreement provisions, or other relevant reasons. The agency will determine if other alternatives are available to minimize the disparate impact on protected groups.

### **Other Methods of Program Evaluation**

The agency submits the following compliance reports to MMB as part of the efforts to evaluate the agency's affirmative action plan:

- Quarterly Monitoring the Hiring Progress Reports

- Biannual Affirmative Action Plan
- Annual Americans with Disabilities Act Report
- Annual Internal Complaint Report
- Disposition of Internal Complaint (submitted to MMB within 30 days of final disposition)

The agency also evaluates the Affirmative Action Plan in the following ways.

- Monitors progress toward stated goals by job category midway through the AA Plan.
- Analyzes employment activity (hires, promotions, and terminations) by job category to determine if there is disparate impact midway through the AA Plan.
- Analyzes compensation program to determine if there are patterns of discrimination and addresses any requests for compensation equity requests.
- Discusses progress with agency leadership on a periodic basis and makes recommendations for improvement.

## **Audits, Sanctions, and Incentives**

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Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 43A.191, subdivision 3, (f) and (g).

An agency not in compliance with affirmative action requirements of this section must identify methods and programs to improve performance, to reallocate resources internally in order to increase support for affirmative action programs, and to submit program and resource reallocation proposals to the commissioner for approval. An agency must submit these proposals within 120 days of being notified by the commissioner that it is out of compliance with affirmative action requirements. The commissioner shall monitor quarterly the affirmative action programs of an agency found to be out of compliance.

The commissioner shall establish a program to recognize an agency that has made significant and measurable progress in implementing an affirmative action plan.



## Policies and Procedures for Harassment and Discrimination Complaints

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Minnesota Administrative Rules, section 3905.0400, subpart 1, item F. Minnesota Administrative Rules, section 3905.0500.

### A. Statewide Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy, HR/LR Policy # 1436 (issued 6/12/2019)

#### OVERVIEW

##### Objective

To create a work environment free from harassment and discrimination based on protected class.

##### Policy Statement

Any form of harassment or discrimination based on protected class is strictly prohibited. Individuals who believe they have been subject to harassment/discrimination based on protected class or retaliation as described in this policy, are encouraged to file a report with an appropriate authority, as set forth in Section II of this policy.

Any form of retaliation directed against an individual who opposes or reports protected class harassment/discrimination, or who participates in any investigation concerning protected class harassment/discrimination, is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Violations of this policy by State employees will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge. Violations of this policy by third parties will be subject to appropriate action.

*Sexual harassment is specifically addressed by HR/LR Policy #1329 Sexual Harassment Prohibited.*

##### Scope

This policy applies to all employees of, and third parties who have business interactions with, executive branch agencies and the classified employees in the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Minnesota State Retirement System, Public Employee Retirement Association, and Teachers' Retirement Association.

##### Definitions and Terms

*Complainant:* An individual who reports protected class harassment, discrimination, or retaliation.

*Third party:* Individuals who are not State employees, but who have business interactions with State employees, including, but not limited to:

- Applicants for State employment
- Vendors
- Contractors
- Volunteers
- Customers

- Business partners
- Unpaid interns
- Other individuals with whom State employees interact in the course of employees' work for the State, such as advocates, lobbyists, and representatives of individuals or entities with business with any branch of Minnesota state government

*Protected class harassment or harassment based on protected class:* Unwelcome conduct or communication that is based on actual or perceived membership in a protected class, including stereotypes of protected classes, that has a negative effect or is likely to have a negative effect on the complainant and/or on the workplace or public service environment.

*Protected class:* Protected classes under this policy are as follows:

- Race
- Color
- Creed
- Religion
- National origin
- Sex\* (includes pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions)
- Marital status
- Familial status
- Receipt of public assistance
- Membership or activity in a local human rights commission
- Disability
- Age
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity
- Gender expression
- For employees, genetic information

\*See HR/LR Policy #1329 Sexual Harassment Prohibited for specific information on harassment based on unwelcome conduct or communication of a sexual nature.

*Age:* The prohibition against harassment and discrimination based on age prohibits such conduct based on a person's age if the person is over the age of 18.

*Marital status:* Whether a person is single, married, remarried, divorced, separated, or a surviving spouse, and includes protection against harassment and discrimination on the basis of the identity, situation, actions, or beliefs of a spouse or former spouse.

*Familial status:* The condition of one or more minors living with their parent(s) or legal guardian, or the designee of the parent(s) or guardian with the written permission of the parent(s) or guardian. This also protects those who are pregnant or those who are in the process of securing legal custody of a minor from being harassed or discriminated against on that basis.

*Disability:* A physical, sensory, or mental impairment which materially limits one or more major life activities; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment.

*Genetic information:* Includes information about an individual's or their family members' genetic tests, family medical history, an individual's request for, or receipt of, genetic services, or the participation in clinical research that includes genetic services by the individual or their family member, and the genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or a pregnant family member, and the genetic information of any embryo legally held by the individual or their family member using an assisted reproductive technology.

*Public service environment:* A location where public service is being provided.

*Membership or activity in a local human rights commission:* Participation in an agency of a city, county, or group of counties that has the purpose of dealing with discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or familial status, as defined by Minn. Stat. § 363A.03, subd. 23.

## **Exclusions**

N/A

## **Statutory References**

M.S. Ch. 43A

M.S. Ch. 363A

## **GENERAL STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **Prohibition of Protected Class Harassment and Discrimination**

Harassment of or discrimination against any employee or third party based on protected class in the workplace or public service environment, or which affects the workplace or public service environment, is strictly prohibited. Harassment of or discrimination against an individual because of their relationship or association with members of a protected class is also strictly prohibited.

Protected class harassment and discrimination may take different forms including verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct or communication. Conduct based on protected class may violate this policy even if it is not intended to be harassing. Protected class harassment and discrimination under this policy includes, but is not limited to, the following behavior when it is based on actual or perceived membership in a protected class, including stereotypes of protected classes:

- Offensive jokes, slurs, derogatory remarks, epithets, name-calling, ridicule or mockery, insults or put-downs
- Display or use of offensive objects, drawings, pictures, or gestures
- Physical assaults or threats
- Inappropriate touching of body, clothing, or personal property
- Following, stalking, intimidation
- Malicious interference with work performance
- Implicit or explicit preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment for submitting to the conduct or communication
- Implicit or explicit negative treatment or threats of negative treatment for refusing to submit to the conduct or communication

- Discriminatory conduct based on an individual's actual or perceived protected class that segregates, separates, limits or restricts the individual from employment opportunities, including, but not limited to, hiring, promotion, compensation, disciplinary action, assignment of job duties, benefits or privileges of employment

## **I. Employee and Third-Party Responsibilities and Complaint Procedure**

Harassment or discrimination based on protected class will not be tolerated. All employees and third parties are expected to comply with this policy.

Employees and third parties are strongly encouraged to report all incidents of protected class harassment or discrimination, whether the individual is the recipient of the behavior, an observer, or is otherwise aware of the behavior. Individuals are encouraged to report incidents as soon as possible after the incident occurs. Individuals may report to any of the following:

1. Any of the agency's managers or supervisors
2. The agency's affirmative action officer
3. The agency's human resources office
4. Agency management, up to and including the agency head

If the report concerns an agency head, the complainant may contact Minnesota Management and Budget, Enterprise Human Resources, Office of Equal Opportunity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

To ensure the prompt and thorough investigation of a report, the complainant may be asked to provide information in writing, which may include, but is not limited to:

1. The name, department, and position of the person(s) allegedly causing the harassment/discrimination
2. A description of the incident(s), including the date(s), location(s), and the identity of any witnesses
3. The name(s) of other individuals who may have been subject to similar harassment/discrimination
4. What, if any, steps have been taken to stop the harassment/discrimination
5. Any other information the complainant believes to be relevant

Individuals are encouraged to use the agency's internal complaint procedure, but may also choose to file a complaint externally with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR), or other legal channels.

## **II. Manager/Supervisory Responsibility**

Managers and supervisors must:

1. Model appropriate behavior
2. Treat all reports of protected class harassment/discrimination seriously
3. Appropriately respond to a report or problem when they receive a report of protected class harassment/discrimination, or when they are otherwise aware a problem exists

4. Immediately report all allegations or incidents of protected class harassment/discrimination to human resources or the agency Affirmative Action Officer
5. Comply with their agency's complaint and investigation procedures and/or the agency's Affirmative Action Plan

Managers and supervisors who knowingly participate in, allow, or tolerate harassment, discrimination, or retaliation are in violation of this policy and are subject to discipline, up to and including discharge.

### **III. Human Resources Responsibilities**

Agency human resources must:

1. Model appropriate behavior
2. Distribute the Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy to all employees, through a method whereby receipt can be verified
3. Treat all reports of protected class harassment/discrimination seriously
4. Comply with the agency's complaint and investigation procedures and/or the agency's Affirmative Action Plan

### **IV. Affirmative Action Officer or Designees Responsibilities**

Agency Affirmative Action Officer/designee must:

1. Model appropriate behavior
2. Treat all reports of protected class harassment/discrimination seriously
3. Comply with the agency's complaint and investigation procedures and/or the agency's Affirmative Action Plan
4. Keep the agency apprised of changes and developments in the law and policy

### **Investigation and Discipline**

State agencies will take seriously all reports of protected class harassment, discrimination and retaliation, and will take prompt and appropriate action. When conducting an investigation, managers and supervisors, human resources, and Affirmative Action Officers must follow their agency's investigation procedures.

State agencies will take prompt and appropriate corrective action when there is a violation of this policy.

Employees who are found to have engaged in conduct in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Third parties who are found to have engaged in conduct in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate action. Appropriate action for policy violations by third parties will depend on the facts and circumstances, including the relationship between the third party and the agency. Agencies may contact MMB's Office of Equal Opportunity, Diversity, and Inclusion for assistance in determining appropriate action for third parties. MMB may refer agencies to the appropriate resources, which may include, for example, the Department of Administration with respect to policy violations by vendors or contractors.

Employees who knowingly file a false report of protected class harassment/discrimination or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

## **Non-Retaliation**

Retaliation against any person who opposes protected class harassment or discrimination, who reports protected class harassment or discrimination, or who participates in an investigation of such reports, is strictly prohibited. Retaliation also includes conduct or communication designed to prevent a person from opposing or reporting protected class harassment or discrimination or participating in an investigation. Retaliation will not be tolerated. Any employee who is found to have engaged in retaliation in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge. Third parties who are found to have engaged in retaliation in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate action.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Agency Responsibility**

Agencies are responsible for the following:

1. Adopting this policy as the agency HR policy.
2. Disseminating this policy to agency employees through a method whereby receipt can be verified.
3. Posting this policy in a manner that can be accessed by all employees and third parties.
4. Including this policy in their Affirmative Action Plan.
5. Implementing this policy, which includes:
  - a. Implementing an educational program
  - b. Developing and implementing a procedure for reporting complaints
  - c. Communicating the complaint procedure to employees
  - d. Developing and implementing a procedure under which reports will be addressed promptly.
6. Enforcing this policy.
7. Reporting annually dispositions of reports of protected class harassment or discrimination using the Affirmative Action Report.

### **MMB Responsibility**

Ensuring that state agencies carry out their responsibilities under this policy, developing training, and updating this policy as necessary.

## **FORMS AND SUPPLEMENTS**

Documents are available on [the MMB Equal Opportunity, Diversity, and Inclusion website](#), including [Affirmative Action resources](#) for state agencies.

[Harassment Complaint Form](#)

**Acknowledgement** – The below form may be used to verify receipt by agency employees

I acknowledge that I have received and read the policy, HR/LR Policy #1436, Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited, including the policy’s complaint procedure.

I understand that harassment and discrimination based on protected class, and retaliation, are strictly prohibited. I understand that if I engage in conduct in violation of the policy toward any State employee, or any “third party” as defined by the policy, I will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

I understand that if I believe that I have been subjected to harassing, discriminatory or retaliatory conduct as defined by the policy by any State employee, or by any “third party” as defined by the policy, I am encouraged to report that behavior. I understand that I can make a report to any of my agency’s managers or supervisors, the agency’s affirmative action officer, the agency’s human resources office, or agency management, up to and including the agency head. I understand that if my report concerns an agency head, I may contact Minnesota Management and Budget.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## REFERENCES

- For issues related to sexual harassment, please refer to HR/LR Policy #1329: Sexual Harassment Prohibited. For issues not related to sexual harassment, or harassment or discrimination based on protected class, please see HR/LR Policy #1432 Respectful Workplace.
- MMB Equal Opportunity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office.
- Consult your agency’s Affirmative Action Plan, or in the absence of an Agency Affirmative Action Plan, review [Affirmative Action resources](#) for state agencies.

## CONTACTS

MMB Enterprise Employee Relations

[Office of Equal Opportunity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#)

Any appropriate authority, as set forth in Section II of this policy.

## **B. Statewide Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policy Statewide HR/LR Policy #1329: Sexual Harassment Prohibited (revised 6/12/2019)**

### **OVERVIEW**

#### **Objective**

To create a work environment free from sexual harassment of any kind.

#### **Policy Statement**

Sexual harassment in any form is strictly prohibited. Individuals who believe they have been subject to sexual harassment as described in this policy are encouraged to file a report with an appropriate authority, as set forth in Section II of this policy.

Any form of retaliation directed against an individual who opposes or reports sexual harassment, or who participates in any investigation concerning sexual harassment, is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Violations of this policy by State employees will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge. Violations of this policy by third parties will be subject to appropriate action.

#### **Scope**

This policy applies to all employees of, and third parties who have business interactions with, executive branch agencies and the classified employees in the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Minnesota State Retirement System, Public Employee Retirement Association, and Teachers' Retirement Association.

#### **Definitions and Key Terms**

##### **Complainant**

An individual who complains about sexual harassment or retaliation.

##### **Public service environment**

A location that is not the workplace where public service is being provided.

##### **Sexual harassment**

Unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome requests for sexual favors, or other unwelcome verbal, written, or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature.

##### **Third party**

Individuals who are not State employees but who have business interactions with State employees, including, but not limited to:

- Applicants for State employment
- Vendors
- Contractors



- Volunteers
- Customers
- Business Partners
- Unpaid Interns
- Other individuals with whom State employees interact in the course of employees' work for the State, such as advocates, lobbyists, and representatives of individuals or entities with business with any branch of Minnesota state government

## **Exclusions**

N/A

## **Statutory References**

42 U.S.C. § 2000e, et al.

M.S. Ch. 363A

M.S. Ch. 43A

## **General Standards and Expectations**

### **I. Prohibition of Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment of any employee or third party in the workplace or public service environment, or which affects the workplace or public service environment, is strictly prohibited.

Sexual harassment under this policy is any conduct or communication of a sexual nature which is unwelcome. The victim, as well as the harasser, can be of any gender. The victim does not have to be of the opposite sex as the harasser. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to:

1. Unwelcome sexual innuendoes, suggestive comments, jokes of a sexual nature, sexual propositions, degrading sexual remarks, threats;
2. Unwelcome sexually suggestive objects or pictures, graphic commentaries, suggestive or insulting sounds, leering, whistling, obscene gestures;
3. Unwelcome physical contact, such as rape, sexual assault, molestation, or attempts to commit these assaults; unwelcome touching, pinching, or brushing of or by the body;
4. Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit an individual to submit to sexual activity for compensation or reward;
5. Negative treatment or threats of negative treatment for refusing to submit to sexual conduct;
6. Subjecting, or threatening to subject, an individual to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct.

### **II. Employee and Third Party Responsibilities and Complaint Procedure**

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated. All employees and third parties are expected to comply with this policy.

Employees and third parties are encouraged to report all incidents of sexual harassment. Individuals are encouraged to report incidents of sexual harassment as soon as possible after the incident occurs. Individuals may make a complaint of sexual harassment to any of the following:

1. Any agency's managers or supervisors
2. The agency's affirmative action officer
3. An agency's human resource office
4. Agency management, up to and including the agency head

If the report concerns an agency head, the complainant may contact Minnesota Management and Budget's Office of Equal Opportunity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

To ensure the prompt and thorough investigation of a report of sexual harassment, the complainant may be asked to provide information in writing, which may include, but is not limited to:

1. The name, department, and position of the person(s) allegedly causing the harassment
2. A description of the incident(s), including the date(s), location(s), and identity of any witnesses
3. The name(s) of other individuals who may have been subject to similar harassment
4. What, if any, steps have been taken to stop the harassment
5. Any other information the complainant believes to be relevant

**Individuals are encouraged to use the agency's internal complaint procedure but may also choose to file a complaint or charge externally with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and/or the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR), or other legal channels.**

### III. Manager/Supervisor Responsibility

Managers and Supervisors must:

1. Model appropriate behavior
2. Treat all reports of sexual harassment seriously
3. Appropriately respond to a report or problem when they receive a report of sexual harassment, or when they are otherwise aware a problem exists
4. Immediately report all allegations or incidents of sexual harassment to human resources or the agency Affirmative Action Officer
5. Comply with their agency's complaint and investigation procedures and/or the agency's Affirmative Action Plan

Managers and supervisors who knowingly participate in, allow, or tolerate sexual harassment or retaliation are in violation of this policy and are subject to discipline, up to and including discharge.

### IV. Human Resources Responsibilities

Agency human resources must:

1. Model appropriate behavior
2. Distribute the sexual harassment policy to all employees, through a method whereby receipt can be verified
3. Treat all complaints of sexual harassment seriously
4. Comply with the agency's complaint and investigation procedures and/or their Affirmative Action Plan

#### V. Affirmative Action Officer or Designee Responsibilities

Agency Affirmative Action Officer/designee must:

- Model appropriate behavior
- Treat all complaints of sexual harassment seriously
- Comply with the agency's complaint and investigation procedures
- Keep the agency apprised of changes and developments in the law and policy

#### VI. Investigation and Discipline

State agencies will take seriously all reports of sexual harassment and retaliation, and will take prompt and appropriate action. When conducting an investigation, managers and supervisors, human resources, and Affirmative Action Officers must follow their agency's investigation procedures.

State agencies will take prompt and appropriate corrective action when there is a violation of this policy.

Employees who are found to have engaged in conduct in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Third parties who are found to have engaged in conduct in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate action. Appropriate action for policy violations by third parties will depend on the facts and circumstances, including the relationship between the third party and the agency. Agencies may contact MMB's Office of Equal Opportunity, Diversity, and Inclusion for assistance in determining appropriate action for third parties. MMB may refer agencies to the appropriate resources, which may include, for example, the Department of Administration with respect to policy violations by vendors or contractors.

Employees who knowingly file a false report of sexual harassment or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

#### VII. Non-Retaliation

Retaliation against any person who opposes sexual harassment, who reports sexual harassment, or who participates in an investigation of such reports, is strictly prohibited. Retaliation also includes conduct or communication designed to prevent a person from opposing or reporting sexual harassment or participating in an investigation. Retaliation will not be tolerated. Any employee who is found to have engaged in retaliation in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and

including discharge. Third parties who are found to have engaged in retaliation in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate action.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Agencies are responsible for:

- Adopting this policy.
- Disseminating this policy to agency employees through a method whereby receipt can be verified.
- Posting this policy in a manner that can be accessed by all employees and third parties.
- Including this policy in their Affirmative Action Plan.
- Implementing this policy, which includes:
  - Implementing an educational program
  - Developing and implementing a procedure for reporting complaints
  - Communicating the complaint procedure to employees
  - Developing and implementing a procedure under which reports will be addressed promptly
- Enforcing this policy.
- Reporting annually dispositions of reports of sexual harassment using the Affirmative Action Report.

MMB is responsible for:

- Ensuring that state agencies carry out their responsibilities under this policy, developing training, and updating this policy as necessary.

## **FORMS AND SUPPLEMENTS**

For a sample investigation procedure, please review the documents available on the [MMB Equal Opportunity, Diversity, and Inclusion website](#), including:

- Agency AAP Planning Guide
- For agencies with more than 25 employees
- For agencies with 25 or fewer employees

### Harassment Complaint Form

Acknowledgment Form (below) – This form may be used to verify receipt by agency employees.

### **Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge that I have received and read the policy, HR/LR Policy #1329, Sexual Harassment Prohibited, including the policy's complaint procedure.

understand that sexual harassment and retaliation are strictly prohibited. I understand that if I engage in conduct in violation of the policy toward any State employee, or any “third party” as defined by the policy, I will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

I understand that if I believe that I have been subjected to sexually harassing or retaliatory conduct as defined by the policy by any State employee, or by any “third party” as defined by the policy, I am encouraged to report that behavior. I understand that I can make a report to any of my agency’s managers or supervisors, the agency’s affirmative action officer, the agency’s human resources office, or agency management, up to and including the agency head. I understand that if my report concerns an agency head, I may contact Minnesota Management and Budget.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **C. Complaint Procedure for Processing Complaints Under the Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy or the Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policy:**

The agency has established the following complaint procedure to be used by all individuals alleging harassment, discrimination, or retaliation in violation of the Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy or the Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policy. Coercion, retaliation, or intimidation against anyone filing a complaint or serving as a witness under this procedure is prohibited.

#### **Who May File:**

Any individual who believes that they have been subject to harassment, discrimination, or retaliation in violation of the Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy or the Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policy is encouraged to use this internal complaint procedure.

If the individual chooses, a complaint can be filed externally with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR), the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), or through other legal channels. The MDHR, EEOC and other legal channels have time limits for filing complaints; individuals may contact the MDHR, EEOC, or a private attorney for more information.

Retaliation against any person who has filed a complaint either internally through this complaint procedure or through an outside enforcement agency or other legal channels is prohibited.

Individuals who knowingly file a false complaint will be subject to disciplinary or corrective action.

The following are the procedures for filing a complaint:

1. The individual may, but is not required to, complete the “Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited/Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policies Complaint Form” provided by the Affirmative Action Officer or designee. Individuals are encouraged to file a complaint within a reasonable

period of time after the individual becomes aware that a situation may involve conduct in violation of the Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy or the Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policy. The Affirmative Action Officer or designee will, if requested, provide assistance in filling out the form.

2. The Affirmative Action Officer or designee determines if the complainant is alleging conduct in violation of the Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy or the Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policy; or if the complaint instead is of a general personnel concern or a general concern of respect in the workplace.
  - If it is determined that the complaint is not related to conduct that would violate the Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy or the Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policy, but rather involves general personnel concerns or general concerns of respect in the workplace, the Affirmative Action Officer or designee will inform the complainant, in writing, within ten (10) business days.
  - If it is determined that the complaint is related to conduct that would violate the Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy or the Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policy, the Affirmative Action Officer or designee will determine whether corrective action may be taken without an investigation. If it is determined that an investigation is necessary, the Affirmative Action Officer or designee shall investigate the complaint.
3. The Affirmative Action Officer or designee shall create a written investigation report of every investigation conducted. If the investigation shows sufficient evidence to substantiate the complaint, appropriate corrective action will be taken.
4. Within (60) days after the complaint is filed, the Affirmative Action Officer or designee shall provide a written answer to the complainant, unless reasonable cause for delay exists. The complainant will be notified if the written answer is not expected to be issued within the sixty (60) day period. The written answer to the complainant must comply with the data privacy restrictions of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.
5. Disposition of the complaint will be filed with the Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget within thirty (30) days after the final determination.
6. The status of the complaint may be shared with the complainant(s) and respondent(s). All data related to the complaint are subject to the provisions of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.
7. The Affirmative Action Officer or designee shall maintain records of all complaints, investigation reports, and any other data or information the Affirmative Action Officer or designee deems pertinent for seven (7) years after the complaint is closed.

8. In extenuating circumstances, the employee or applicant may contact the State Affirmative Action Officer in the Office of Equal Opportunity at Minnesota Management and Budget for information regarding the filing of a complaint (for example, if the complaint is against the agency head or the agency Affirmative Action Officer).

# D. Minnesota Department of Agriculture Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited/Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policies Complaint Form Template

The Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited/Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policies Complaint Form shown below can be found at <https://mn365.sharepoint.com/sites/MDA/hr/forms/Shared%20Documents/Complaint%20of%20Harassment%20and%20Discrimination.pdf>

**MDA Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited/ Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policies Complaint Form**

Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Complainant (You)**

Complainant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Address \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Manager \_\_\_\_\_

**Respondent (Person Against whom you are filing the complaint)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent's Job Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent's Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Address \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Manager \_\_\_\_\_

625 ROBERT STREET NORTH, SAINT PAUL, MN 55155-2538 ☎ 651-201-6000 or 1-800-967-2474 ☎ WWW.MDA.STATE.MN.US  
 In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

**The Complaint**

**Basis of Complaint**

Place an "X" in the box for all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> Race	<input type="checkbox"/> Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Expression
<input type="checkbox"/> Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Identity	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Familial Status	<input type="checkbox"/> National Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Genetic Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Creed	<input type="checkbox"/> Retaliation
<input type="checkbox"/> Color	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership or Activity in a Local Human Rights Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Harassment	<input type="checkbox"/> Reliance on Public Assistance	
<input type="checkbox"/> Disability		

Describe, in as much detail as possible, the conduct that you believe violates the Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy or the Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policy. List dates, locations, names and titles of people involved. Explain why you believe the conduct was based on the item(s) checked in the "Basis of Complaint" section above. Use additional paper if needed and attach to this form. Attach any documents you believe may be relevant.

Date most recent act of discrimination/ harassment in violation of policy took place: \_\_\_\_\_

If you filed this complaint with another agency, give the name of that agency: \_\_\_\_\_

625 ROBERT STREET NORTH, SAINT PAUL, MN 55155-2538 ☎ 651-201-6000 or 1-800-967-2474 ☎ WWW.MDA.STATE.MN.US  
 In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

**Information on Witnesses Who You Believe Can Support Your Complaint**

Witness Name	Witness Work Address	Witness Work Telephone

Additional witnesses may be listed in "Additional Information" or on a separate sheet attached to this form.

This complaint is being filed based on my honest belief that I have been subjected to conduct in violation of the Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy or the Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policy. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Complainant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

Complaint Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Affirmative Action Officer Signature)

**NON-RETALIATION:** Retaliation against any person who reports conduct under the Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited Policy or the Sexual Harassment Prohibited Policy is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. If you believe that you have been subjected to retaliation, you are encouraged to report such behavior.

Additional Information \_\_\_\_\_

625 ROBERT STREET NORTH, SAINT PAUL, MN 55155-2538 ☎ 651-201-6000 or 1-800-967-2474 ☎ WWW.MDA.STATE.MN.US  
 In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.





## Appendices

### Appendix A: Progress Report

Females (Promo = promotion)

Job Category	Prior AAP Total Employee #	Prior AAP Total Females #	Prior AAP Total Females %	Prior AAP Availability Females %	Total Hires & Promo #	Total Hired #	Male Hired #	Females Hired #	Un-known Hired #	Females Hired %	Total Promo #	Male Promo #	Females Promo #	Un-known Promo #	Females Promo %	Actual Females Hiring (%)	Females Had Goals in Prior AAP?	Females Goal Met?
Officials and Managers	21	<10	**.**%*	48.12%	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	**.**%*	Yes	Yes
Professionals	378	203	53.70%	42.13%	142	89	41	47	<10	52.81%	53	21	32	<10	60.38%	55.63%	-	-
Technicians	35	15	42.86%	65.60%	21	21	13	<10	<10	**.**%*	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	**.**%*	Yes	No
Paraprofessionals	<10	<10	**.**%*	80.56%	18	18	<10	14	<10	77.78%	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	77.78%	Yes	No
Administrative Support	25	22	88.00%	75.24%	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	**.**%*	-	-
Service Maintenance	59	22	37.29%	43.83%	74	74	41	30	<10	40.54%	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	40.00%	Yes	No
<b>Total</b>	526	274	52.09%		269	208	102	101	<10	48.56%	61	24	37	<10	60.66%			

**Racial or Ethnic Minorities (Promo = promotion; RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities)**

Job Category	Prior AAP Total Employee #	Prior AAP Total RE #	Prior AAP Total RE %	Prior AAP Availability RE %	Total Hires & Promo #	Total Hired #	Non-RE Hired #	RE Hired #	Un-known Hired #	RE Hired %	Total Promo #	Non-RE Promo #	RE Promo #	Un-known Promo #	RE Promo %	Actual RE Hiring (%)	RE Had Goals in Prior AAP?	RE Goal Met?
Officials and Managers	21	<10	**.**%*	6.76%	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	**.**%*	-	-
Professionals	378	34	8.99%	13.34%	142	89	73	10	<10	11.24%	53	46	<10	<10	**.**%*	9.15%	Yes	No
Technicians	35	<10	**.**%*	5.15%	21	21	16	<10	<10	**.**%*	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	**.**%*	-	-
Paraprofessionals	<10	<10	**.**%*	14.61%	18	18	15	<10	<10	**.**%*	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	**.**%*	-	-
Administrative Support	25	<10	**.**%*	16.00%	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	**.**%*	-	-
Service Maintenance	59	<10	**.**%*	6.23%	74	74	65	<10	<10	**.**%*	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	**.**%*	Yes	No
<b>Total</b>	526	48	9.13%		269	208	174	19	15	9.13%	61	52	<10	<10	**.**%*			

**Persons with Disabilities** (Promo = promotion; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Job Category	Prior AAP Total Employee #	Prior AAP Total PWD #	Prior AAP Total PWD %	Prior AAP Availability PWD %	Total Hires & Promo #	Total Hired #	PWD Hired #	Non-PWD Hired #	Un-known Hired #	PWD Hired %	Total Promo #	Non-PWD Promo #	PWD Promo #	Un-known Promo #	PWD Promo %	Actual PWD Hiring (%)	PWD Had Goals in Prior AAP?	PWD Goal Met?
Officials and Managers	21	<10	**.**%*	2.37%	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	**.**%*	-	-
Professionals	378	28	7.41%	3.90%	142	89	73	14	<10	15.73%	53	44	<10	<10	**.**%*	12.68%	-	-
Technicians	35	<10	**.**%*	1.49%	21	21	18	<10	<10	**.**%*	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	**.**%*	-	-
Paraprofessionals	<10	<10	**.**%*	4.68%	18	18	16	<10	<10	**.**%*	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	**.**%*	-	-
Administrative Support	25	<10	**.**%*	6.96%	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	**.**%*	-	-
Service Maintenance	59	<10	**.**%*	8.50%	74	74	54	13	<10	17.57%	<10	<10	<10	<10	**.**%*	17.33%	-	-
<b>Total</b>	526	43	8.17%		269	208	165	33	10	15.87%	61	50	<10	<10	**.**%*			

## Appendix B: Separation Analysis

**Total Separations** (Sep = Separation; RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Separation Type	Total % by Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> Females % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total Females Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> RE % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total RE Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> PWD % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total PWD Sep
Dismissal or Non-Certification	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Resignation	19.77%	54.29%	23.46%	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*
Enhanced Separation	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Retirement	15.25%	48.15%	16.05%	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*
Death	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lay-off	12.99%	47.83%	13.58%	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*
Termination without Rights	51.41%	40.66%	45.68%	**.**%*	**.**%*	16.48%	65.22%
<b>Total Separations</b>	100.00%	45.76%	100.00%	7.91%	100.00%	12.99%	100.00%

**Officials and Managers** (Sep = Separation; RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Separation Type	Total % by Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> Females % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total Females Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> RE % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total RE Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> PWD % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total PWD Sep
Dismissal or Non-Certification	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Resignation	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Enhanced Separation	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Retirement	**.**%*	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Death	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lay-off	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Termination without Rights	**.**%*	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Total Separations</b>	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

**Professionals** (Sep = Separation; RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Separation Type	Total % by Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> Females % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total Females Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> RE % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total RE Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> PWD % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total PWD Sep
Dismissal or Non-Certification	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Resignation	52.94%	51.85%	50.00%	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*
Enhanced Separation	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Retirement	39.22%	55.00%	39.29%	**.**%*	**.**%*	0.00%	0.00%
Death	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lay-off	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Termination without Rights	*.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	0.00%	0.00%	**.**%*	**.**%*
<b>Total Separations</b>	100.00%	54.90%	100.00%	**.**%*	100.00%	**.**%*	100.00%

**Technicians** (Sep = Separation; RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Separation Type	Total % by Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> Females % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total Females Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> RE % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total RE Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> PWD % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total PWD Sep
Dismissal or Non-Certification	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Resignation	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Enhanced Separation	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Retirement	**.**%*	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Death	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lay-off	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Termination without Rights	73.33%	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*
<b>Total Separations</b>	100.00%	**.**%*	100.00%	**.**%*	100.00%	**.**%*	100.00%

**Paraprofessionals** (Sep = Separation; RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Separation Type	Total % by Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> Females % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total Females Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> RE % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total RE Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> PWD % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total PWD Sep
Dismissal or Non-Certification	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Resignation	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Enhanced Separation	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Retirement	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Death	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lay-off	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Termination without Rights	100.00%	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Total Separations</b>	100.00%	**.**%*	100.00%	**.**%*	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

**Administrative Support** (Sep = Separation; RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Separation Type	Total % by Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> Females % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total Females Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> RE % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total RE Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> PWD % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total PWD Sep
Dismissal or Non-Certification	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Resignation	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Enhanced Separation	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Retirement	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*
Death	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lay-off	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Termination without Rights	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Total Separations</b>	100.00%	**.**%*	100.00%	**.**%*	100.00%	**.**%*	100.00%

**Service Maintenance** (Sep = Separation; RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Separation Type	Total % by Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> Females % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total Females Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> RE % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total RE Sep	Sep Type <sup>1</sup> PWD % within Sep Type	Sep Type <sup>2</sup> Sep Type % within Total PWD Sep
Dismissal or Non-Certification	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Resignation	<10	**.**%*	**.**%*	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Enhanced Separation	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Retirement	<10	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Death	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lay-off	23	47.83%	32.35%	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*	**.**%*
Termination without Rights	58	36.21%	61.76%	**.**%*	**.**%*	22.41%	92.86%
<b>Total Separations</b>	86	39.53%	100.00%	**.**%*	100.00%	16.28%	100.00%



## Appendix C: Job Category Analysis

### Officials and Managers

Job Code	Job Title
003639	State Prog Admin Manager
003679	State Prog Admin Manager Sr
003719	State Prog Admin Manager Prin
003045	Human Resources Director 3
003003	Agronomy Asst Dir Environ Reg
008205	Deputy Commr Agriculture
008303	Asst Commr Agriculture
008102	Commissioner-Agriculture

### Professionals

Job Code	Job Title
000140	Buyer 1
000510	Planner Principal State
000577	Information Officer 3
000633	Accounting Officer Senior
000634	Management Analyst 4
000652	Human Resources Consultant 1
000837	Planner Senior State
000893	Management Analyst 3
000979	Accounting Officer Inter
001304	Grants Specialist Sr
001528	Management Analyst 2
001644	Grants Specialist Inter
002687	Safety Administrator
003005	Planning Program Supv
003171	Agency Policy Specialist
003604	State Prog Admin
003605	State Prog Admin Intermediate

<b>Job Code</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
003606	State Prog Admin Sr
003607	State Prog Admin Prin
003608	State Prog Admin Coordinator
003609	State Prog Admin Director
003712	State Prog Admin Supv Prin
003730	Management Analyst Staff Spec
000500	Human Resources Director 1
002390	Accounting Officer Principal
001423	Human Resources Specialist 2
000996	Training & Development Spec 3
000659	Research Analysis Spec Sr
000609	Research Scientist 3
000959	Hydrologist 3
001477	Chemist 2
000958	Hydrologist 2
000955	Hydrologist 1
002376	Planner Intermediate
000607	Research Scientist 1
000608	Research Scientist 2
003236	Plant Health Specialist 3
000814	International Trade Rep
002117	Analytical Laboratory Spec
002868	Agric Consultant
001697	Hydrologist 4
002870	Agric Unit Supervisor
003567	Interstate Milk Rating Officer
001470	Plant Health Specialist 2
002869	Agric Program Supervisor
002506	Environmental Analyst Supv 2
001016	Food Stndrds Compliance Office
002867	Agric Advisor
002504	Environmental Analyst 3
000304	Food Inspection Supervisor

<b>Job Code</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
001548	Plant Health Specialist 1
002055	Soil Scientist 2
003393	Quality Services Supv
000155	Bacteriologist Supervisor 2
001549	Plant Protection Prog Supv
001478	Bacteriologist 2
000974	Agric Specialist
002661	Loan Officer Senior
000258	Educ Specialist 1
002355	Bacteriology Laboratory Spec
000220	Dairy Inspection Supervisor
008756	Proj Consultant
003698	Loan Officer Supervisor
002502	Environmental Analyst 1
002503	Environmental Analyst 2
000153	Chemist 1
003565	Dairy Inspector 1
003566	Dairy Inspector 2

**Technicians** (RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

<b>Job Code</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
000774	Accounting Technician
003709	State Prog Admin Tech Spec
000411	Medical Laboratory Tech 1
000409	Laboratory Services Supervisor
000753	Graphic Arts Specialist
001994	Plant Industry Inspector 1
002703	Warehouse Examiner Senior
001995	Plant Industry Inspector 2
003032	Seed Potato Specialist
000631	Area Terminal Produce Inspector

<b>Job Code</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
000323	Warehouse Examiner
000850	Seed Analyst

### **Paraprofessionals**

<b>Job Code</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
001486	Human Resources Technician 2
008598	Student Worker Para Prof
008599	Student Worker Para Prof Sr

### **Administrative Support**

<b>Job Code</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
000293	Exec 2
003626	Office Specialist
003627	Office & Admin Specialist
003628	Office & Admin Specialist Int
003629	Office & Admin Specialist Sr
003630	Office & Admin Specialist Prin
003632	Central Svcs Admin Spec Inter
003635	Customer Svcs Specialist
003631	Central Svcs Admin Spec
008596	Student Worker Clerical
002102	Office and Admin Supv
003104	Forensic Evidence Spec

**Service Maintenance**

Job Code	Job Title
000523	Agric Technician
000435	Livestock Weigher 2
000434	Livestock Weigher 1

**Appendix D: Feeder Jobs**

**Officials and Administrators** (RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Job Code	EEO Category	Job Title	Weighted Females %	Weighted RE %	Weighted PWD %
002869	Professionals	Agric Program Supervisor	25.00%	0.00%	8.33%
003639	Officials and Administrators	State Prog Admin Manager	11.76%	5.88%	5.88%
003679	Officials and Administrators	State Prog Admin Manager Sr	11.76%	0.00%	0.00%
000500	Professionals	Human Resources Director 1	4.17%	0.00%	0.00%
003003	Officials and Administrators	Agronomy Asst Dir Environ Reg	0.00%	4.17%	0.00%
Total			45.83%	8.33%	12.50%

**Professionals** (RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Job Code	EEO Category	Job Title	Weighted Females %	Weighted RE %	Weighted PWD %
002867	Professionals	Agric Advisor	10.73%	2.44%	1.95%
001500	Professionals	Accounting Supervisor Princ	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
000633	Professionals	Accounting Officer Senior	0.49%	0.00%	0.00%
000979	Professionals	Accounting Officer Inter	1.49%	0.00%	0.00%
000774	Technicians	Accounting Technician	1.95%	.98%	0.00%
000974	Professionals	Agric Specialist	4.39%	1.46%	0.49%
002870	Professionals	Agric Unit Supervisor	2.44%	0.49%	0.00%

Job Code	EEO Category	Job Title	Weighted Females %	Weighted RE %	Weighted PWD %
003566	Technicians	Dairy Inspector 2	1.95%	0.49%	0.49%
001486	Paraprofessionals	Human Resources Technician 2	0.89%	0.00%	0.49%
000955	Professionals	Hydrologist 1	0.98%	0.00%	1.46%
000958	Professionals	Hydrologist 2	0.98%	0.00%	0.00%
000959	Professionals	Hydrologist 3	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
003606	Professionals	State Prog Admin Sr	12.68%	0.98%	0.98%
003605	Professionals	State Prog Admin Inter	5.85%	0.98%	1.46%
003604	Professionals	State Prog Admin	2.44%	0.49%	1.95%
001644	Professionals	Grants Specialist Inter	0.49%	1.11%	1.11%
003567	Professionals	Interstate Milk Rating Officer	0.98%	0.00%	0.00%
003969	Professionals	Laboratory Scientist 1	0.49%	0.00%	0.00%
003970	Professionals	Laboratory Scientist 2	2.44%	1.46%	0.00%
003971	Professionals	Laboratory Scientist 3	1.46%	0.98%	0.98%
003972	Technicians	Laboratory Technician	0.49%	0.49%	0.00%
001548	Professionals	Plant Health Specialist 1	2.44%	0.00%	0.00%
001470	Professionals	Plant Health Specialist 2	1.46%	0.49%	0.98%
Total			57.56%	11.71%	11.22%

**Technicians** (RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Job Code	EEO Category	Job Title	Weighted Females %	Weighted RE %	Weighted PWD %
000523	Service Maintenance	Agric Technician	33.78%	1.35%	10.81%
003565	Technicians	Dairy Inspector 1	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%
000323	Technicians	Warehouse Examiner	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
000850	Technicians	Seed Analyst	0.00%	1.35%	0.00%
001994	Technicians	Plant Industry Inspector 1	2.70%	1.35%	2.70%
Total			39.19%	4.05%	13.51%

**Paraprofessionals** (RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Job Code	EEO Category	Job Title	Weighted Females %	Weighted RE %	Weighted PWD %
Total					

**Administrative Support** (RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Job Code	EEO Category	Job Title	Weighted Females %	Weighted RE %	Weighted PWD %
003631	Administrative Support	Central Svcs Admin Spec	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%
003633	Administrative Support	Central Svcs Admin Spec Senior	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%
003628	Administrative Support	Office & Admin Specialist Int	41.67%	16.67%	16.67%
003629	Administrative Support	Office & Admin Specialist Sr	25.00%	0.00%	8.33%
Total			75.00%	16.67%	33.33%

**Service Maintenance** (RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Job Code	EEO Category	Job Title	Weighted Females %	Weighted RE %	Weighted PWD %
000434	Service Maintenance	Livestock Weigher 1	42.86%	0.00%	14.29%
Total			42.86%	0.00%	14.29%

## Appendix E: Determining Availability

Officials and Managers (RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

Factor	Weight Ratio	Raw Statistics Females	Raw Statistics RE	Raw Statistics PWD	Weighted Statistics Females	Weighted Statistics RE	Weighted Statistics PWD	Source of Statistics	Reasons for External and Internal Weight Ratio
<b>1: External</b> - Percentage of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities with requisite skills in the reasonable recruitment area.	50.00%	41.62%	6.42%	3.30%	20.81%	3.21%	1.65%	State MN	Since January 2020 about ½ of the hires we have made into this category were external.
<b>2: Internal</b> - Percentage of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities among those promotable, transferable, and trainable with your agency.	50.00%	45.83%	8.33%	12.50%	22.92%	4.17%	6.25%	Employee workforce for the job classifications that constitute feeders to this job category.	
The value of weight must equal to 100.00% →	100.00%	<b>Final Avail %</b>			<b>43.73%</b>	<b>7.38%</b>	<b>7.90%</b>		



**Professionals (RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Weight Ratio</b>	<b>Raw Statistics Females</b>	<b>Raw Statistics RE</b>	<b>Raw Statistics PWD</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics Females</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics RE</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics PWD</b>	<b>Source of Statistics</b>	<b>Reasons for External and Internal Weight Ratio</b>
<b>1: External</b> - Percentage of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities with requisite skills in the reasonable recruitment area.	68.00%	36.20%	15.33%	1.85%	24.61%	10.42%	1.26%	State MN	Since January 2020, 68% of hires into the Professionals category were from external appointments.
<b>2: Internal</b> - Percentage of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities among those promotable, transferable, and trainable with your agency.	32.00%	57.56%	11.71%	11.22%	18.42%	3.75%	3.59%	Employee workforce for the job classifications that constitute feeders to this job category.	
The value of weight must equal to 100.00% →	100.00%	<b>Final Avail %</b>			<b>43.03%</b>	<b>14.17%</b>	<b>4.85%</b>		

**Technicians** (RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Weight Ratio</b>	<b>Raw Statistics Females</b>	<b>Raw Statistics RE</b>	<b>Raw Statistics PWD</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics Females</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics RE</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics PWD</b>	<b>Source of Statistics</b>	<b>Reasons for External and Internal Weight Ratio</b>
<b>1: External</b> - Percentage females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities with requisite skills in the reasonable recruitment area.	90.00%	65.70%	4.83%	9.90%	59.13%	4.34%	0.00%	State MN	Since January 200, 90% of appointments into the Technicians category were from external appointments.
<b>2: Internal</b> - Percentage of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities among those promotable, transferable, and trainable with your agency.	10.00%	39.19%	4.05%	13.51%	3.92%	0.41%	1.35%	Employee workforce for the job classifications that constitute feeders to this job category.	
The value of weight must equal to 100.00% →				<b>Final Avail %</b>	<b>63.05%</b>	<b>4.75%</b>	<b>1.35%</b>		

**Paraprofessionals** (RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Weight Ratio</b>	<b>Raw Statistics Females</b>	<b>Raw Statistics RE</b>	<b>Raw Statistics PWD</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics Females</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics RE</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics PWD</b>	<b>Source of Statistics</b>	<b>Reasons for External and Internal Weight Ratio</b>
<b>1: External</b> - Percentage of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities with requisite skills in the reasonable recruitment area.	100.00%	84.87%	15.40%	4.89%	84.87%	15.40%	4.89%	State MN	Appointments into the Paraprofessionals category were all external hires.
<b>2: Internal</b> - Percentage of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities among those promotable, transferable, and trainable with your agency.	0.00%				0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Employee workforce for the job classifications that constitute feeders to this job category.	
The value of weight must equal to 100.00% →	100.00%	<b>Final Avail %</b>			<b>84.87%</b>	<b>15.40%</b>	<b>4.89%</b>		

**Administrative Support** (RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Weight Ratio</b>	<b>Raw Statistics Females</b>	<b>Raw Statistics RE</b>	<b>Raw Statistics PWD</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics Females</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics RE</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics PWD</b>	<b>Source of Statistics</b>	<b>Reasons for External and Internal Weight Ratio</b>
<b>1: External</b> - Percentage of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities with requisite skills in the reasonable recruitment area.	90.00%	67.14%	18.07%	4.55%	60.43%	16.26%	4.10%	State MN	Since January 2020, over 90% of our hires into the Admin Support category were from external hires.
<b>2: Internal</b> - Percentage of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities among those promotable, transferable, and trainable with your agency.	10.00%	75.00%	16.67%	33.33%	7.50%	1.67%	3.33%	Employee workforce for the job classifications that constitute feeders to this job category.	
The value of weight must equal to 100.00% →	100.00%	<b>Final Avail %</b>			<b>67.93%</b>	<b>17.93%</b>	<b>7.43%</b>		

**Service Maintenance** (RE = Racial or Ethnic Minorities; PWD = Persons with Disabilities)

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Weight Ratio</b>	<b>Raw Statistics Females</b>	<b>Raw Statistics RE</b>	<b>Raw Statistics PWD</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics Females</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics RE</b>	<b>Weighted Statistics PWD</b>	<b>Source of Statistics</b>	<b>Reasons for External and Internal Weight Ratio</b>
<b>1: External</b> - Percentage of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities with requisite skills in the reasonable recruitment area.	95.00%	45.14%	6.63%	8.93%	42.88%	6.30%	8.48%	State MN	Since January 2020, 95% of hires into the Service Maintenance category were from external appointments.
<b>2: Internal</b> - Percentage of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities among those promotable, transferable, and trainable with your agency.	5.00%	42.86%	0.00%	14.29%	2.14%	0.005	0.17%	Employee workforce for the job classifications that constitute feeders to this job category.	
The value of weight must equal to 100.00% →	100.00%	<b>Final Avail %</b>			<b>45.03%</b>	<b>6.30%</b>	<b>9.20%</b>		

## Appendix F: Utilization-Goal Analysis

### Females

Job Categories	Total Number of Employee in Job Category	Total Number of Females Employee in the Job Category	% of Females Employee in the Job Category	Females Availability %	Females Establish Goals?	If Yes, Goals for FY 2024-2026
Officials and Managers	27	12	44.44%	43.73%	Monitor	
Professionals	410	223	54.39%	43.03%		
Technicians	39	18	46.15%	63.05%	Yes	63.05%
Paraprofessionals	11	10	90.91%	84.87%	Monitor	
Administrative Support	15	12	80.00%	67.93%		
Service Maintenance	65	28	43.08%	45.03%	Yes	45.03%
Totals	567	303	53.44%			

### Racial or Ethnic Minorities (RE)

Job Categories	Total Number of Employee in Job Category	Total Number of RE Employee in the Job Category	% of RE Employee in the Job Category	RE Availability %	RE Establish Goals?	If Yes, Goals for FY 2024-2026
Officials and Managers	27	<10	**.***%	7.38%		
Professionals	410	36	8.78%	14.17%	Yes	14.17%
Technicians	39	<10	**.***%	4.75%		
Paraprofessionals	11	<10	**.***%	15.40%	Monitor	
Administrative Support	15	<10	**.***%	17.93%		
Service Maintenance	65	<10	**.***%	6.30%	Yes	6.30%
Totals	567	52	9.17%			

**Persons with Disabilities (PWD)**

<b>Job Categories</b>	<b>Total Number of Employee in Job Category</b>	<b>Total Number of PWD Employee in the Job Category</b>	<b>% of PWD Employee in the Job Category</b>	<b>PWD Availability %</b>	<b>PWD Establish Goals?</b>	<b>If Yes, Goals for FY 2024-2026</b>
Officials and Managers	27	<10	**.**%	7.90%		
Professionals	410	48	11.71%	4.85%		
Technicians	39	<10	**.**%	1.35%		
Paraprofessionals	11	<10	**.**%	4.89%		
Administrative Support	15	<10	**.**%	7.43%		
Service Maintenance	65	<10	**.**%	9.20%		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>12.52%</b>			

## Definitions of Terms Used in This Affirmative Action Plan

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**Applicant:** "Applicant" means a person who has satisfied the minimum requirements for application established by the commissioner of management and budget ([M.S. 43A.02, subd. 4](#)).

**Availability:** an estimated percentage of qualified females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities in the relevant labor market who are available for positions in a given job category at a state agency. The final availability is determined by considering two factors: the statistics from the outside labor market and the internal state agency workforce for the Affirmative Action Plan year.

**Connect 700 (C700) Program:** an alternative selection process for individuals whose disabilities prevent them from demonstrating their skills in a standard competitive selection process. If selected, this program allows eligible individuals to demonstrate their skills in an on-the-job trial work experience of up to 700 hours. See [Minnesota Statutes, section 43A.15, subdivision 14](#).

**Feeder job:** staffed positions within the agency that can be promoted and/or transferred into other EEO job categories.

**Hiring goal:** a numerical objective designed to correct an identified deficiency in the utilization of protected group members. For example, the professional job category has identified underutilization, and the availability is 30%, the goal (or hiring goal) for females in the job category is for 30% of the new hires/rehires and promotions for that Affirmative Action Plan year would be females. Goals/hiring goals should never be implemented as quotas, nor should they be used as criteria in decision-making regarding qualifications.

**Job category:** a group of jobs that are linked by a common purpose and skill set (or sometimes certificates/educational degrees) and are grounded on the job categories identified by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

**Labor market area or Reasonable recruitment area:** a geographic area in which an agency is seeking a worker in a particular goal unit and where there is an available supply of workers employed or seeking jobs in that goal unit.

**Promotion:** the appointment of an employee to a position in a class assigned to a salary range which is two or more steps higher at the maximum than the employee's current job class or which requires an increase of two or more steps to pay the employee at the minimum of the new range.

**Protected groups:** Females, persons with disabilities, and members of the following Minorities: Black, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, and American Indian or Alaskan Native ([M.S. 43A.02, subd. 33](#)).

**Snapshot:** one particular point in time. A snapshot of a workforce is taken at one particular point in time as the basis for Affirmative Action Plan analyses because the workforce numbers are always fluctuating.

**Supported Work Program:** The state legislature established the program in 1987 to expand employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities. but has been expanded to include individuals who experience other significant disabilities, including, but not limited to, head injury, mental illness, and deaf blindness. Under the program, a supported worker must require ongoing support and may share a single position with up to two other supported work employees.



**Underutilization:** the representation of females, persons with disabilities, and racial or ethnic minorities in a specific job category is less than reasonably would be expected given from workforce participation in the labor market area.