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Workforce 20/20 Program Focus Alignment

The ND Senate Bill No. 2016, Section 5 reads as follows:

- **Workforce 20/20 Funding.** Fifty Percent of the workforce 20/20 funding in section 1 of this Act must be used for projects for new or expanding businesses in North Dakota.

The North Dakota Century Code 52-08.1-02 reads as follows:

1. Job Service North Dakota shall give priority to applicants that:
 - f. Provide training to unemployed and employed residents of North Dakota for new businesses creating new jobs and expanding businesses.

Historically, we have had a strong distribution of new and expanding businesses applying for workforce 2020 funding and application of these provisions has been achieved. However during this biennium we have seen a decline in requests from new and expanding businesses, likely due to current economic conditions. At this time, we have not rejected new or expanding business applications. Therefore it is difficult to say definitively that we have not been providing priority of service in accordance with statute. However, in order to achieve the statutory 50% funding minimum on new or expanding businesses, we must curtail our use of funds on 'existing' businesses (those businesses applying for funds to train existing staff).

Temporary Change:

Job Service North Dakota will temporarily cease funding Workforce 2020 applications from existing businesses. This temporary freeze will be in effect only until funded applications from either new or expanding businesses catch up with the level of funding of the existing businesses.

We will encourage any businesses with applications that are declined for this reason to reapply later. When the level of approved funding (obligation) is aligned with statute, we will resume funding requests from existing businesses.