



Survey results indicate a clear need for action to help Greater St. Cloud/Central Minnesota companies hire employees

When more than half of respondents to a May 2021 survey say that expanded unemployment benefits contribute to their difficulty filling positions, and when 38% say fewer than half the candidates offered jobs accepted them, it's a serious problem that needs attention and action – now.

While this was not formal research conducted to have a small margin of error, the reality is that 59 companies said that current hiring challenges have forced them to cut back on expansion plans in the Greater St. Cloud/Central Minnesota region. Fourteen said they've considered relocating elsewhere. And that's just in one small region of the entire state.

The Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation and St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce urge Minnesota government leaders to immediately address this crisis in ways that include:

Actively and aggressively enforcing job search and job acceptance requirements for recipients to qualify for unemployment benefits. Reduce the scope of allowance for not accepting job offers. And establish a process for companies to easily report non-responsive applicants.

Adding an incentive (termination of benefits bonus) for those receiving unemployment benefits to return to work.

Returning the maximum term of eligibility to pre-pandemic levels.

Offsetting the amount of eligibility by the amount added by the federal top-off.

Our organizations and our investors/members stand ready to assist the State of Minnesota in helping quickly bring these and other needed changes to fruition.