Summary of Proposed Changes to DWFAP's Supportive and Follow-Up Services Policy

Reason for Proposed Changes:

The proposed changes to DWFAP's Supportive and Follow-Up Services Policy are due to U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) summer 2026 monitoring findings to Minnesota's WIOA Adult and WIOA DW programs. These changes must be completed by December 1, 2026.

Proposed Major Changes:

1. Clarifies the requirements of 20 CFR 680.910 for all providers statewide.
    - Clarifying how supportive services must be identified, documented, and validated at the local level.
    - Verifying carrier services and/or training services enrollment prior to the initial provision of a supportive service.
    - Clarifies local supportive services policy requirements.
2. Incorporates Technical Assistance Response (TAR) Letter 26-04 guidance into the policy to strengthen requirements and avoid duplication.
3. Expands the definition of "Follow-Up Services" to allow for Follow-Up Services-Supportive Assistance after exit for former participants in unsubsidized employment. These services are to help former participants retain their new jobs for up to 12 months after exit. For reference, see the State of Washington's Follow-Up Services Policy and related DOL waiver letter (pages four and five of the linked policy).
    - Note: This expanded definition will not be operational until Workforce One (WF1) updates are completed.
    - While WF1 updates are being finalized stakeholders are encouraged to use this time to submit comments and questions to DWFAP on issues including but not limited to:
        - Timeline for rollout and implementation of Follow-Up Services-Supportive Assistance,
        - Eligibility for Follow-Up Services-Supportive Assistance,
            - For example:
                - Must have exited into unsubsidized employment,
                - Must be currently employed at the same employer they exited into,
                - Must provide details on current employment (such as Median Earnings 2nd Quarter After Exit, etc.),
        - Follow-Up Services-Supportive Assistance cost limit questions and proposals
            - For example, no more than $1,000 per former participant,

- Classifying and documenting Follow-Up Services-Supportive Assistance costs and funding streams,
- Prohibited Follow-Up Services-Supportive Assistance costs,
    - For example, funds cannot be used on services that would be considered training services such as Incumbent Workr Training, On-the-Job Training for employees, etc.
- Local Follow-Up Services-Supportive Assistance policy requirements and guidance.

Timeline of Supportive and Follow-Up Services Policy Related Changes

- April 2025: Last updates to DWFAP's Supportive and Follow-Up Services Policy published
- June 2026:
    - TAR Letter 26-04 Published – Clarified Supportive and Follow-Up Services Policy financial needs analysis requirements.
    - DOL monitoring of Minnesota's WIOA Adult and WIOA DW programs.
- August 2026: DOL shares it's monitoring results and findings with DEED.
- September 18, 2026: DEED replies to DOL's findings with its planned response.
- October 12, 2026: Proposed Supportive and Follow-Up Services Policy posted for 30-day public comment period.
- November 12, 2026: End of public comment period for proposed Supportive and Follow-Up Services Policy changes.
- November 12 - November 23, 2026: Respond to public comments, finalize policy changes and related guidance.
- November 24, 2026: Publish Supportive and Follow-Up Services Policy updates and related guidance (if any) as final.
- By March 31, 2027: Stakeholder training on updated Supportive and Follow-Up Services Policy changes and related guidance.