Facts: Elmer L. Andersen Human Services Building

Namesake

Elmer L. Andersen was Minnesota’s governor from 1961 to 1963. He also served in the state Senate from 1949 to 1958. Gov. Tim Pawlenty chose to name the building for the late Gov. Andersen for his many contributions to public service, public citizenship and human services, which include:

- Chairing the Minnesota Senate interim committee on handicapped children, putting Minnesota at the vanguard of special education in the United States and providing better coordination of services for people with developmental disabilities
- Continuing Gov. Luther Youngdahl’s efforts on behalf of people with mental illness and developmental disabilities and working to improve conditions in state institutions
- Sponsoring early efforts on creating professional adoption agencies.

Address and location: The Andersen Building is located at 540 Cedar St., between 10th and 11th and Cedar and Minnesota streets in downtown St. Paul. This was the site of the old Capitol Square Building.

Work force: Nearly 1,100 people occupied the Andersen Building at the time of its opening in November 2005. Currently it is occupied by approximately 1,300 staff. Prior to the consolidation, Central Office was located in nine locations.

When the final aspects of the Central Office facilities consolidation project was completed in November 2005, the department occupied a total of six locations in St. Paul: the Andersen Building, 444 Lafayette, 444 Pine St., 800 Minnehaha, Metro Square Annex and an Operations Center.

Currently the department occupies space in six primary Central Office locations in St. Paul and Brainerd: the Andersen Building, 444 Lafayette, the Golden Rule Building, an Operations Center, Brainerd Building 20, and the Brown & Bigelow Building.

Why a new building was needed: DHS’ operating costs would be lower in the long term and would provide the state with an asset and position the agency for its ongoing technology requirements and its sustainable and flexible workplace environment. DHS’ Central Office was scattered in nine leased metro locations, which had made it difficult and costly to do business. A net present value analysis at the time showed that showed that the long-term costs to the state would be less than continuing to rent.

Construction financing: Building construction cost was estimated at $73.9 million. Total project cost, which included architectural, engineering, interior workplace design, low-voltage cabling, furnishings and staff relocation was estimated at more than $101 million. The state entered into a lease-to-own arrangement with the Saint Paul Port Authority for the financing of the building in November 2002. This financing was done

mn.gov/dhs
through bonds issued by the port authority. The state will have the option of purchasing the building for $1 at the end of the 25-year lease.

**Architectural, design and engineering:** BWBR Architects of St. Paul designed the building. Architectural Alliance of Minneapolis developed the interior design and workspace program. Michaud Cooley Erickson of Minneapolis engineered the infrastructure support systems. Studio Five Architects served as the owner’s project representatives for the building project.

**Building size:** 407,000 gross square feet in eight above-ground stories, one lower level and the Andersen Parking Ramp with 468 parking spaces.

**Partnership with the city of St. Paul:** The St. Paul Fire Department Station No. 8 is located on the first floor adjacent to the Andersen Parking Ramp at the corner of 10th and Minnesota.

**About DHS:** DHS administers health care coverage, economic assistance, and a variety of services for children, people with disabilities and older Minnesotans. More information can be found at: [mn.gov/dhs](http://mn.gov/dhs)

For accessible formats of this publication or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to [dhs.info@state.mn.us](mailto:dhs.info@state.mn.us), call 651-431-2911, or use your preferred relay service.