

---

**Sponsor:** Community & Economic Development

**Meeting Date:** 4/15/2025

**Title:** Agreement with Hennepin County for CEO Now Business Institute Programming

**File Number:** 2025-129

---

**Background and Rationale:**

In 2024, Ramsey County launched the CEO Now business program for the first time in partnership with Hennepin County. Designed to accelerate the growth and expansion of existing businesses, CEO Now focuses on early-stage, growth-minded companies. The program equips new founders with the strategic and technical skills needed to build a strong foundation for long-term success, including business systemization and scaling strategies.

Eligible participants are privately owned businesses with at least one employee beyond the owner, a minimum of two years in operation, and annual revenue of at least \$250,000. The inaugural cohort saw six Small Business CEOs successfully graduate. All of them are still operating and a few of the participants have been showcased on the Community and Economic Development (CED) newsletter and social media platforms. Additionally, CED referred each of them to New Impact Fund, a nonprofit organization that offers capital to small businesses, giving them the opportunity to access financial support.

With the continuation of the CEO Now program, Ramsey County is strengthening its ability to support emerging and expanding businesses, fostering a more competitive and resilient regional economy.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve an agreement with Hennepin County for CEO Now Business Institute Programming for the period upon through October 23, 2025, in accordance with the rates established in the agreement.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the agreement.
3. Authorize the County Manager to execute amendments to the agreement in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of available funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Xiong, seconded by Commissioner Miller.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County Board