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**Sponsor:** Workforce Solutions

**Meeting Date:** 4/8/2025

**Title:** 2025 Unified Local Youth Plan for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Minnesota Youth Program

**File Number:** 2025-085

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**Background and Rationale:**

Ramsey County Workforce Solutions (WFS) provides employment services for low-income and at-risk youth (ages 14-24) through state and federal grants. Each year, WFS is required to submit an updated Unified Local Youth Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County (WIB) must approve the Plan.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Minnesota Youth Program (MYP) continue to build momentum in career pathways partnerships, employer engagement activities and strategies for improved service delivery and participant outcomes. The service delivery model employed by WFS is a collaborative service model that partners with community organizations, education providers, and employers to eliminate economic, educational, and income disparities.

WFS delivers Youth and Young Adult Employment Services through agreements with ten organizations - of which the following seven currently receive WIOA and MYP funding: Hired, Face to Face, Goodwill Easter-Seals of MN, Change Inc., Hmong American Partnership, Tree Trust, and Urban Boat Builders. These agreements will remain in place through June 30, 2027. WFS will amend contracts on an annual basis to allocate new DEED-distributed funds.

The Unified Local Youth Plan for the Program Year 2025 (April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026) and the State Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026) is due to DEED on April 11, 2025. The Plan reflects recommendations and updates approved by the WIB Youth Committee on March 20, 2025, and the full WIB on April 3, 2025.

WIOA Youth and MYP funds for the 2025 program year have not yet been determined due to delays of information from the U.S. Department of Labor and DEED. Because of this delay, DEED has not included budget forms for this program in the annual plan. Once allocation amounts are provided, DEED will provide budget templates and WFS will submit a budget to DEED for approval and, subsequently, to the county board.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the 2025 Unified Local Youth Plan for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth and Minnesota Youth Program for the period upon execution through March 31, 2026.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Youth Plan.
3. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to agreements in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the approved Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth and Minnesota Youth Program budgets.
4. Authorize the County Manager to enter into expenditure grant agreements and execute amendments to agreements in a form approved by Finance and the County Attorney's Office provided the amounts of funding are within the limits of the approved program budgets.
5. Authorize the County Manager to apply for and accept additional Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth and Minnesota Youth Program grant funds as they become available under the Grant Agreement.

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

Motion passed.

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

By:   
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Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County  
Board