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**Sponsor:** Human Resources

**Meeting Date:** 12/22/2020

**Title:** Countywide Unclassified Limited Duration Appointments for COVID-19 Response

**File Number:** 2020-612

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**Background and Rationale:**

In March 2020 Ramsey County began responding to community needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the pandemic response began the County has received \$96 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) funding to assist with its response efforts.

Multiple departments utilized CARES dollars to increase staffing in order to expand operations to meet the needs of the community, including Public Health, Workforce Solutions, Financial Assistance Services, the Ramsey County Care Center and Finance to respond to homelessness.

These staff were authorized through County Board Resolution B2020-133 and Board Resolution B2020-169. Resolution B2020-133 authorized up to 130 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) unclassified limited duration positions and Resolution B2020-169 authorized up to 91 FTE unclassified limited duration positions for a total of 221 limited duration appointments. All positions were authorized through December 30, 2020 when CARES funding ends. These actions were allowed under Minn Statute 383A.286, Subd (l).

Without the limited duration positions in 2020 the County would have been unable to adequately respond and appropriately care for or serve residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although CARES funding will cease at year end, the pandemic has not been resolved nor has the community's need for assistance. Ramsey County will continue its response efforts into 2021.

To ensure continuity of operations and community response to COVID-19 in 2021, the County Manager recommends that the 221 unclassified limited duration positions be extended until such time that the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners declares the County's current emergency response has concluded as long as there is a business need and funding is available.

**Recommendation:**


The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Approve continuation of any unclassified limited duration positions for the COVID-19 response previously approved by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners as long as a 1) a business need exists to do so, 2) funding is available, and 3) until such time the County Board declares Ramsey County's current emergency response is concluded.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By:   
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Janet Guthrie, Chief Clerk - County Board