Form 1. Cover Sheet

Name:		Ramsey County Workforce Solutions							
`									
2.	Director	Ling Becker		8.	Contact	Michelle Belitz			
Name:				Name:					
3.	Telephone:	651-266-6001		Ð.	Telephone:	651-266-6054			
4.	Fax:	651-266-9891		10.	Fax:	651-266-9891			
5.	Email:	ling.becker@rams	eycounty.us	11.	Email:	michelle.belitz@ramseycounty.us			
6.	Organization	http:www.workfo	rcesolutionsmi	n.com					
Website	-								
7.	Full Address:			12.	Full Address	:			
2266 2 ⁿ	^d Street N., Nort	h Saint Paul MN 5	5109	2266 2ª	^{id} Street N., No	orth Saint Paul MN 55109			
13.	Federal Tax 4	1-6005875		14.	Minnesota	8027226			
D: (requ	uired)			Tax ID:	(required)				
15.				16.	SWIFT	0000196508 001			
Number: (required)				Vendor	ID: (if known)				
Propos	al Information	ו:							
17. Proposal Name: CO			COVID-19 D	COVID-19 Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG)					
			Ramsey County and its community partners, Goodwill Easter Seals and Hired, will place 25 dislocated workers into temporary work						
18.	Proposal Sumr	nary:		experiences in disaster recovery humanitarian jobs. Up to five					
-0.	roposaroann	roposal Summary.		individuals will receive needed skills or certification training to					
				nes and earnings.					
			Work experiences, training, support services						
19.	Program Comp	oonents:		,	0, 11				
20.	Credentials Av	ailable:	-	Specific certificates and/or credentials will be determined on a case b					
			case basis						
21. Dronoco	Geographic Ar	ea Served by	Ramsey County, MN (WDA #15)						
Proposa									
22. Total Amount of DEED Funds Requested:		\$295,647							
23. Anticipated Number of									
Participants Served by Proposal:			30						
. 24.	Cost Per Participant: \$9,855								
25.	Project Start &	End Date: April 9, 2021 - June 30, 2022							

I certify that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the applicant.

Authorized Signature	Title	Date
Zing-Becker	Director	4/2/2021

Executive Summary: Ramsey County Workforce Solutions is requesting \$295,647 of COVID-19 Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant to place up to 30 individuals in temporary employment opportunities to address the health and safety challenges caused by the global pandemic. Available employment opportunities will initially be in the areas of food and housing but as the pandemic continues to evolve additional humanitarian efforts may be identified.

WFS will collaborate with Goodwill Easter Seals and Hired to meet the goals of this grant as they are both well-established and experienced providers of workforce programming and provide a full range of social services to residents. As a county department, WFS will also leverage cross departmental communications with food, housing, financial, child support and correctional services across the county as referral channels to the DWG program.

Ramsey County has been responding to the immediate and basic needs of residents created by the pandemic. Below are just a few examples that demonstrate not only the need but the county's ability to respond:

• Nearly 1,000 people experiencing homelessness were sheltered in hotels and emergency shelters and 276 homeless individuals received COVID-19 respite care.

More than \$10 million dollars in direct financial assistance was provided to 4,551
 households to ensure housing stability through Emergency Assistance/Emergency
 General Assistance for rent, mortgage, utility shut-off, or transportation.

Nearly 8,000 Ramsey County residents received home-delivered meals, over
 22,000 deliveries were made to homes from local food shelf partners, and over 46,000
 meals were delivered to students and youth by local school districts or youth programs.

Organization and Equity: Workforce Solutions (WFS), in existence since 2000, is the county administrator of employment service programs including Diversionary Work Program ("DWP"), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training ("SNAP E&T"), Minnesota Family Investment Program ("MFIP"), and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act ("WIOA") Dislocated Worker, Adult and Youth Programs. Adult employment and training services provide career counseling and re-training to individuals, including those who are unemployed, underemployed, dislocated workers, and/or adults needing assistance entering or re-entering the workforce. WFS has over 20 years of direct and subrecipient managed experience delivering the full spectrum of dislocated worker services including case management, training, job search and retention services. Priority is given to veterans, those needing basic skills improvement and economically disadvantaged individuals. Services are funded by WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker (DW) Programs and the Minnesota Dislocated Worker Program.

WFS operates under the authority of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County ("WIB"); the WIB is the oversight body for all workforce development in the Ramsey County, WDA #15.

As the most diverse county in the state, Ramsey County continues to position itself as a regional leader in local racial equity efforts. The Workforce Development Area (WDA) works with other boards to address reasons for racial disparities, work on strategic outreach and advocate for policy changes to remove barriers. Key partners are engaged, especially employers, to participate in initiatives that foster innovation, opportunity and support for all workers. The WIB is interested in providing accessible employment services to reach residents with an array of employment and training services such as those that are displaced, disengaged, unemployed and underemployed, as well as employers seeking workers and/or sector partnerships to upskill their current workforce. The WIB provided valuable insight to the larger effort of Ramsey County toward the development of an Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Vision Plan. The plan will guide the effort for economic development and embeds inclusive workforce development as a critical strategy, with execution starting in the second quarter of 2021.

Ramsey County has had a significant focus on authentic community engagement. As a result of COVID-19, these efforts were intensified through a Racial Equity and Community Response Team and Equity Action Circles which are made up of community members. Feedback from these efforts along with listening sessions and town halls continue to provide insights on the needs of the community. The WIB continues to prioritize having partner organizations and program participants share regularly at board meetings.

Race	WFS Staff	2018 U.S.	WFS	Ramsey	Ramsey
		Census Estimate	Participants	County	County
				Board	WIB
American Indian	0%	1%	3%	0%	6%
or Alaska Native					
Asian	21%	15.3%	13%	0%	3%
Black or African	20%	12.6%	54%	14%	21%
American					
Hispanic/Latino*	4%	7.6%*	NA	29%	3%
White	51%	67.4%	25%	57%	67%
Multi-Race	4%	3.6%	5%		
Not Specified	0%				

Workforce Solutions, Ramsey County and Board Racial Demographic Percentages

*Includes any race

Partnerships & Collaboration: WFS will collaborate with Goodwill Easter Seals and Hired to meet the goals of this grant as they are both well-established and experienced providers of workforce programming and they are on active contract with the county to deliver Dislocated Worker services in Ramsey County. They have extensive experience providing resources, training, career counseling, employment services, job placements and retention for job seekers. These strengths make them ideal partners for this project.

Additionally, WFS will leverage DEED's unemployment division and REA services to refer Ramsey County UI recipients to WFS for Dislocated Workers services and to fulfill the goals of this grant. WFS, Goodwill Easter Seals and Hired are well connected to a variety of social service providers throughout the county, many who serve unemployed residents. As a county department, WFS will also leverage cross departmental communications with food, housing, financial, child support and correctional services across the County help ensure comprehensive needs of residents are met. Goodwill Easter Seals and Hired are large organizations that provide a full range of workforce and social services to a wide range of residents. These connections will be maximized as referral channels to the DWG program.

There will be several employer partners who will provide DWG program staff with the details of their job openings. Employers will review candidate qualifications, interview and select their new workers from the DWG program. Employers will be responsible for all training and oversight of employees as well as initial payment of payroll and benefits and employers will be reimbursed. Initial efforts will be made to address the increased need in the areas of food and housing created by COVID-19. As the pandemic continues to evolve, additional humanitarian efforts may be identified. WFS will work closely with DEED staff to communicate

these emerging needs and update DEED with new employer partnerships. Due to the abbreviated time frame to respond to this grant, conversations have been started and potential positions and pay ranges have been identified as demonstrated in the chart below:

Subsidized Employment Positions						
Emergency Shelter	Benefit and Housing Navigators	\$18-\$20/hr				
Emergency Food Services	Nutritional Services Staff	\$13.50/hr				
	Food Rescue Driver	\$20/hr				
	Nutritional Services Coordinator	\$24/hr				
	Community Social Worker	\$42k/yr				
	Youth Development Staff	\$15/hr				
	Program Coordinator	\$19/hr				

Ramsey County has been responding to the immediate and basic needs of residents created by the pandemic. Below are just a few examples that demonstrate not only the need but the county's ability to respond:

Nearly 1,000 people experiencing homelessness were sheltered in hotels and

emergency shelters and 276 homeless individuals received COVID-19 respite care

• More than \$10 million dollars in direct financial assistance was provided to 4,551 households to ensure housing stability through Emergency Assistance/Emergency General Assistance for rent, mortgage, utility shut-off, or transportation. Distribution of these funds went disproportionately to Black and American Indian households, which are two groups disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 infection.

• Nearly 8,000 Ramsey County residents received home-delivered meals, over 22,000 deliveries were made to homes from local food shelf partners, and over 46,000 meals were delivered to students and youth by local school districts or youth programs.

Work Plan: As stated previously, WFS, Goodwill Easter Seals and Hired are well-established organizations which have dedicated and knowledgeable staff. To successfully implement new grants and projects it will require adequate infrastructure and support at many layers of the organizations. As the applicant, WFS will provide programmatic oversight through the support of a Planning Manager and a Planning and Evaluation Analyst, fiscal oversight will be the responsibility of WFS's Finance Manager, and the implementation oversight will be the responsibility of Program Managers at Goodwill Easter Seals and Hired. WFS staff, as well as staff assigned to implement the program, are experienced with Dislocated Worker programming, training, work readiness and job placement services.

Outreach and recruitment for this grant will occur through a variety of methods including:

- Reverse referrals of volunteers and clients of Ramsey County Community Based
 Organizations, Housing Shelters, and Food Distribution Centers.
- Traditional recruitment and referrals will be solicited from Dislocated Worker and other workforce programs including MFIP, Youth programs, Unemployment Insurance recipients and those that have exhausted their benefits, and from One Stop Partners.
- Ramsey County websites for residents and job seekers will advertise the DWG program; social media campaigns will occur.
- Traditional communication tools such as email distribution lists and flyers will be utilized to ensure the community is informed of the training and employment opportunities.

Case Managers will interview potential participants to assess potential barriers and readiness for the services including training and employment. Individualized assessments are provided and available to determine skills, educational background and needs, career interests and goals. These include self-guided interest assessments, approved staff administered education level assessments, and career pathway discussions and referrals. Case Managers will be a single point of contact when they review applications for eligibility, process enrollments into the program through intake processes, collaborate on goal development and employment plans, provide assessments, centralized coordination of referrals and support services, manage enrollment and payment for trainings, assist participant in evaluating the recovery job opportunities, helping participant to apply and interview for positions and review timesheets for submission to fiscal department for employer reimbursement.

Work readiness training will be offered when there is an identified need by participants and their Case Manager. Case Managers will connect participants to classroom, virtual, group or one to one coaching or self-study options to help them build the skills required to succeed in training, job search and employment. Case Managers will have participant contact every thirty days at the minimum and more if needed. Contacts with participants will focus on work related progress and issues or barriers. Case managers will utilize a full family and holistic approach as they support participants in their subsidized positions. Support services will be utilized when a barrier may be mitigated through connections and/or payments for needed resources.

The workforce programs of WFS and our partners have continued to operate through COVID-19 and have evolved to new models of virtual service delivery. We have ensured that employment services are available both in person (when allowable and safe) and by providing services by phone, email or video conferencing. Through county provided CARES Act funding, WFS, in partnership with county locations and the Saint Paul Public Libraries, Community Career Labs were opened to provide online job search tools, referrals to training programs, access to virtual job fairs, workshops, career planning information and more.

Resources for technology will be made available through support service funds and connections to technology access programs. Laptops, phones, and wi-fi connections may be included in the resources that are offered to the participant.

Regularly scheduled check-ins with Case Manager and participant will occur (at least every thirty days). WF1 will be utilized to track activities, progress, case notes and outcomes. Under COVID-19 emergency conditions, Case Managers will meet with participants by phone, via Teams or Zoom or safely in person when allowed.

Budget/Fiscal Capacity: The total DEED funds requested is \$295,647 to serve 30 adults age 18 or older. Average participant cost is estimated at \$9,855. It is estimated that up to 5 individuals may access training through this grant at approximately \$1,000 per person. Program eligible individuals may be co-enrolled in other programs to access work experiences, training and support services.

WFS will serve as the pass-through entity to Goodwill Easter Seals and Hired which are current vendors of WIOA employment programs in Ramsey County and were selected through a competitive solicitation process. As the pass-through entity, WFS will provide oversight, technical assistance and monitoring for the duration of the grant. Our Finance team includes a Finance Manager, Accountant, Account Clerk and a Payroll Specialist with experience in state monitoring activities and financial audits. Funds will allow WFS to:

- Leverage the expertise and networks of the county as well as community-based providers.
- Put up to 30 individuals in work experiences that advance the health and safety efforts
 of Minnesota during the recovery from COVID19 and provide them an opportunity to reenter the workforce.
- Put up to five individuals into skills or certification training in order to increase their employment outcomes and wages.
- Increase job placement navigation support in partnership with community-based providers.

Form 2. Work Plan

Complete the work plan as applicable to your proposal. Data entered should be cumulative and numeric. Input "N/A" in activities you will not be providing.

Please check all services participants will be enrolled under this grant:

Disaster-recovery humanitarian employment only;

Employment and training activities only; or

Both disaster-recovery humanitarian employment and employment and training activities.

Table 1: Participant Plan

Category	Qtr. 1 End Date: 3/31/2021	Qtr. 2 End Date: 6/30/2021	Qtr. 3 End Date: 9/30/2021	Qtr. 4 End Date: 12/31/2021	Qtr. 5 End Date: 3/31/2022	Grant End Date: 6/30/2022
A. DWG funded disaster-recovery employment <u>only</u>	0	2	6	18	23	25
B. DWG funded employment and training activities <u>only</u>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
C. Accessing both disaster-recovery and employment and training activities (<i>These may occur</i> <i>concurrently, or one may occur prior to the other.</i>)	0	0	1	3	4	5
D. Total participants accessing DWG funds (A+B+C)	о	2	7	18	23	30
E. Total participants no longer accessing DWG funds	0	0	1	6	12	30
F. Exits to Unsubsidized Employment/Successful Exits	0	0	1	4	8	25
G. All Other Exits	0	0	0	1	3	5
H. Total participants exited (F+G)	0	0	1	5	12	30
I. Current participants accessing DWG funds (D- E)	0	2	6	10	9	0

Table 2: Activity Plan

Activity	Qtr. 1 End Date: 3/31/2021	Qtr. 2 End Date: 6/30/2021	Qtr. 3 End Date: 9/30/2021	Qtr. 4 End Date: 12/31/2021	Qtr. 5 End Date: 3/31/2022	Grant End Date: 6/30/2022
Number of participants Engaged in Disaster Recovery Services	0	2	7	16	22	30
Number of participants accessing DWG funded Career Services						
Individual Plan Development*	0	2	7	21	26	30
Assessment / Staff Assisted Assessment*	0	2	7	21	16	30
Job Search / Staff Assisted Job Search	0	0	1	8	15	17
Career Counseling*	0	2	7	22	26	30
Pre-vocational Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Work Readiness Services	0	0	2	4	6	6
Work Experience (Unique count)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transitional Jobs (Specific Work Experience Type)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unique count of participants accessing DWG funded Training Services						
Non-Credentialed Training	0	0	1	2	3	3
Classroom Training (Credential)	0	0	0	0	1	2
Customized Training (Credential)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OJT Public and Private (Non-credential)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Apprenticeship Training (Credential)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Entrepreneurial Training (Credential)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Required*

Form 3: Budget

Please complete budget form, see <u>Cost Category Definitions</u> as needed. Matching funds are not required; however, applicants are encouraged to leverage federal, private, or other funds. You are also not required to use all cost categories.

TOTAL COST PER PARTICIPANT \$9,855 (Total DEED funds requested divided by the total number of participants)

Office Use Only	Cost Category	(Qtr. 1) Grant Start Date through: 3/31/2021	Qtr. 2 End Date: 6/30/2021	Qtr. 3 End Date: 9/30/2021	Qtr. 4 End Date: 12/31/2021	Qtr. 5 End Date: 3/31/2022	Grant End Date: 6/30/2022
833	Administrative Costs ¹	0	\$733	\$2,282	\$10,434	\$19,319	\$29,564
881	Wage and Fringe	0	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$84,695	\$159,390	\$201,083
885	Direct Services	0	\$4,400	\$8,800	\$13,200	\$25,000	\$50,000
838	Direct Participant Training	0	0	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$3,750	\$5,000
828	Support Services	0	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$10,000
	Total:	0	\$8,133	\$25,332	\$115,829	\$214,459	\$295,647

¹ Administrative costs cannot exceed 10% of total funds requested and expended.

Form 4A. Partnership Chart - - Uncompensated Partners

List all partner organizations that will contribute resources, staff, or time to the proposed services **without compensation**. Signed letters of support from partners explaining what they will contribute and their responsibility in grant operations, if any, are required for each partner.

Type of Organization (e.g. employer, educational institution, non- profit, etc.)	Name and Address of Organization	Type of Commitment: (Time, staff, resources, space, referrals, etc.)	Key Contact Person and Telephone Number	Letter of Support Enclosed	Responsible for Workforce One Data Entry
		N/A		□Yes □No	□Yes □No
				Yes	Yes
				No Yes	No Yes
				No Yes	□No □Yes
				Yes	Yes
				Yes	Yes
				No Yes	No Yes
				No	No

Form 4B. Partnership Chart-Compensated Partners/Sub-grantees

List all partners that **will receive compensation** from this grant. Signed letters of intent to contract or contracts from partners explaining what they will contribute and their responsibility in operations should be included. *If a compensated partner has a potential or perceived conflict of interest, such as providing donations to the applicant or sitting on the applicant's board of directors, attach a letter of disclosure explaining the relationship of the partner to the applicant organization*. Letters are not counted to the page limit.

Selected grantees must use their internal procurement policy and issue an RFP to select a sub-grantee through a bid as required by the Uniform Guidance.

Type of Organization (e.g. employer, business, educational institution, etc.)	Name and Address of Organization	Responsibilities: (Case Management, Training, Accounting, etc.)	Key Contact Person and Telephone Number	Letter of Intent Enclosed	Responsible for Workforce One Data Entry	Conflict of Interest Disclosure Letter Required?	Anticipated total amount of compensation from grant
Employer	More Doors	Employer of emergency shelter workers	Amy Blair 651-266-4843	Yes 🖂 No	☐ Yes ⊠ No	☐ Yes ⊠ No	Wages undetermined at this time
Employer	Start Today Hennepin 2531 Marshall St. NE Minneapolis MN 55418	Employer of emergency shelter workers	Amy Blair 651-266-4843	☐ Yes ⊠No	☐ Yes ⊠ No	☐ Yes ⊠ No	Wages undetermined at this time
Employer	Food shelves in Ramsey County	Employer of emergency workers	Carissa Glatt 651-266-2506	☐ Yes ⊠No	☐ Yes ⊠ No	Yes	Wages undetermined at this time
Non-profit	Goodwill Easter Seals 553 Fairview Avenue N. Saint Paul MN 55104	Case Management Placements Support Services Training	Sheila Olson (651) 379-5864	Yes	Yes No	☐ Yes ⊠ No	\$126,000
Non-profit	Hired 217 Fifth Avenue N. Third Floor Minneapolis MN 55401	Case Management Placements Support Services Training	Julie Brekke 612-715-3628	⊠ Yes □No	Yes No	☐ Yes ⊠ No	\$126,000

Form 5: Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

This form gives applicants and grantees an opportunity to disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may exist when receiving a grant. It is the applicant/grantee's obligation to be familiar with the Office of Grants Management (OGM) <u>Grants Policy 08-01 Conflict of Interest Policy for State Grant-Making effective date 1/1/21</u> and to disclose any conflicts of interest accordingly.

All grant applicants <u>must</u> complete and sign a conflict of interest disclosure form.

✓ I or my grant organization do NOT have an ACTUAL or POTENTIAL conflict of interest.

If at any time after submission of this form, I or my grant organization discover any conflict of interest(s), I or my grant organization will disclose that conflict immediately to the appropriate agency or grant program personnel.

□ I or my grant organization have an ACTUAL or POTENTIAL conflict of interest. (*Please describe below*):

If at any time after submission of this form, I or my grant organization discover any additional conflict of interest(s), I or my grant organization will disclose that conflict immediately to the appropriate agency or grant program personnel.

Printed name: Ling Becker

Signature: Jing Becker

Organization: Ramsey County Workforce Solutions

Date: 4/2/2021

Form 6. Affidavit of Non-Collusion

Instructions: Please return this completed form as part of the Request for Proposal Response submittal.

I swear (or affirm) under the penalty of perjury:

- 1. That I am the Responder (if the Responder is an individual), a partner in the company (if the Responder is a partnership), or an officer or employee of the responding corporation having authority to sign on its behalf (if the Responder is a corporation).
- 2. That the attached proposal submitted in response to the Minnesota National Dislocated Worker Grant Program Request for Proposal has been arrived at by the Responder independently and has been submitted without collusion with and without any agreement, understanding, or planned common course of action with, any other Responder of materials, supplies, equipment, or services described in the Request for Proposal, designed to limit fair and open competition.
- 3. That the contents of the proposal have not been communicated by the Responder or its employees or agents to any person not an employee or agent of the Responder and will not be communicated to any such persons prior to the official opening of the proposals.
- 4. That I am fully informed regarding the accuracy of the statements made in this affidavit.

Authorized Signature

In Becker

Responder's firm name: Ramsey County Workforce Solutions

Print authorized representative name: Ling Becker

Title: Director

Authorized signature:

Date: 04/02/2021

Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31 day of March, 2021.

Notary Public signature

Commission expires (mm/dd/yyyy): MARIANN MACALU

Commission Expires

GOODWILL EASTER SEALS

3/31/21

Ling Becker Workforce Solutions Director Ramsey County Economic Growth and Community Investment Service Team 2266 Second Street North St. Paul, MN 55109

Dear Ms. Becker,

On behalf of Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota (GESMN) I am writing a letter of support for Ramsey County Workforce Solutions proposal for the COVID-19 Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) offered by the Minnesota Employment and Economic Development.

GESMN envisions a world where everyone experiences the power of work. This is what we help to achieve through our partnership with Workforce Solutions including numerous initiatives such as F.A.S.T, MFIP, Adult, and Dislocated Worker programming. Workforce Solutions is a leader in workforce development and employer engagement that is responsive to the needs of diverse populations. We are confident in their experience to effectively administer this dislocated worker program.

GESMN commits to partnering with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions to assist in employment and training to help support the needs of job seekers, employers, and to strengthen our community response to those impacted by COVID-19.

If you have any questions regarding Ramsey County Workforce Solutions record and experience with our agency or our role in the proposed project, please contact me at 651/379-5864.

Sincerely,

Chila & 1

Sheila Olson Chief Services and Programs Officer



March 31, 2021

Karyn Berg Ramsey County Workforce Solutions 2266 2nd St N North St. Paul, MN 55109

Dear Karyn,

Hired is pleased to support Ramsey County in providing services to Dislocated Workers in order to obtain disaster recovery jobs.

Based on our initial conversations, we anticipate that:

-Hired will partner with Ramsey County in identifying employer partners interested in hiring temporary disaster recovery workers.

-Hired's staff will identify individuals interested in this opportunity.

-Hired's Employment Counselor will work with participants to identify skills gaps and to provide work readiness training to help prepare them for their new roles.

-Hired will place individuals in subsidized employment identified disaster recovery positions.

Hired's involvement and scope of work (number served) will be dependent upon award amount. We look forward to discussing next steps.

Warm regards,

Debbie Ferry Employment Services Director debbie.ferry@hired.org

Debbie Ferry