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**Sponsor:** Workforce Solutions

**Meeting Date:** 4/27/2021

**Title:** COVID-19 Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant Award from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

**File Number:** 2021-216

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**Background and Rationale:**

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), through its Employment and Training Division, sought proposals from Workforce Development Areas to respond to the COVID-19 Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG).

This emergency funding will be used to provide employment and training services to Dislocated Workers and pay wages and benefits for individuals who will be placed in temporary employment in Disaster Recovery Humanitarian Jobs. As the state continues to open-up, employers have a great need for workers to assist individuals impacted by COVID-19 and/or conduct services and activities to help maintain the health and safety of the community.

On April 1, 2021, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners was advised by memo of Workforce Solutions' intent to bring a Request for Board Action to the County Board upon receiving notice of the funding award.

On April 2, 2021, Workforce Solutions submitted an application to DEED with a request for DWG funding of \$280,000.

On April 9, 2021, Workforce Solutions was allocated \$295,648 from DEED. The funds will be used to serve approximately 30 Ramsey County residents during the period of April 27, 2021 through June 30, 2022. All participants will receive career and training services, and at least 25 of those participants will have direct subsidized placement into disaster relief temporary employment.

Workforce Solutions will collaborate with Goodwill Easter Seals and Hired, the County's existing Dislocated Worker contracted providers, 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 this program.

**Recommendation:**


The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Ratify the submission of an application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for the COVID-19 Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant in an amount of \$280,000.
2. Accept a grant award of \$295,648 and approve a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for COVID-19 Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant for the period of April 20, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreement.
4. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and contracts and execute amendments to agreements and contracts in accordance with the County's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of the grant funding.
5. Authorize the County Manager to apply for and accept additional COVID-19 Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant funds from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for the period of April 27, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in a form approved by the County Attorney's office.
6. Authorize the County Manager to make temporary cash loans, as needed, from the County General Fund to Workforce Solutions to cover program expenses until program funds are received, with repayment to be made upon receipt of the funds.

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

Motion passed.

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

By:   
Abby Goldsmith, Interim Chief Clerk - County Board