



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development

Date: June 23, 2015

To: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Chair, Community Development and
Regulatory Services Committee

Subject and Recommendation: Approve the attached resolution supporting Ability Network's application to the State Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Job Creation Fund (JCF).

Previous Directives: None

Department Information

Prepared by: Kristin Guild, Manager of Business Development, 612-673-5168

Approved by: D. Craig Taylor, Executive Director, CPED _____
Charles T. Lutz, Deputy Director, CPED _____

Presenters in Committee: Kristin Guild

Financial Impact: None

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification – The Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association was notified on June 5, 2015.
- City Goals – A hub of economic activity and innovation: Businesses – big and small – start, move, stay and grow here
- Comprehensive Plan – This project supports many policies in Chapter 4, Economic Development.
- Zoning Code – This project will comply with all requirements of the applicable zoning district.

Supporting Information

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) administers and funds the Job Creation Fund (JCF). The intent of the program is to provide financial incentives to new and expanding businesses that meet certain job creation and capital investment targets. Companies deemed eligible to participate may receive up to \$1 million for creating or retaining high-paying jobs and for constructing or renovating facilities or making other property improvements. Funds are awarded upon completion of the project and when the job goals for the project have been achieved.

Ability Network, Inc, formerly known as VisionShare, is a Minneapolis-based healthcare technology company. ABILITY provides web-based services that simplify administrative and

clinical processes for healthcare payers and providers across the country. Such services include providing a means for healthcare providers to securely connect to Medicare and other insurance payers, verify eligibility and enrollment of patients, and secure payment. ABILITY's current headquarter operations in Minnesota consist of the above mentioned tasks as well as a number of administrative and back office activities. ABILITY has had operations in Minneapolis since the company's founding in 2000. In addition to the Minneapolis location, ABILITY has several satellite locations around the country including a secondary anchor location in Tampa, Florida.

ABILITY is considering expanding its current Minneapolis operations to accommodate the company's growth, and has applied for State funding through the Job Creation Fund. For that application to be considered complete by the State, the application must include a resolution of support from the City of Minneapolis as the home jurisdiction of the company. The dollar amount of the potential Job Creation Fund award will be determined by DEED staff as part of their application review. There is no limitation on the number of Job Creation Fund awards to companies within any given jurisdiction.

ABILITY currently employs 118 at its Minneapolis headquarters facility at Butler Square at 100 North Sixth Street. Average salaries are in excess of \$65,000. The company currently leases 43,000 square feet at Butler Square. The contemplated expansion would increase the footprint to approximately 87,000 square feet and add 167 jobs.

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

By Council Member _____

**Supporting the Job Creation Fund Application to the State of Minnesota
Department of Employment and Economic Development in connection with Ability
Network Inc.**

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis (the "City") desires to assist Ability Network Inc., a Minneapolis-based corporation, which is proposing to expand their facility in the City; and

Whereas, the City understands that Ability Network Inc, through and with the support of the City, intends to submit to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development an application for an award and/or rebate from the Job Creation Fund Program; and

Whereas, the City considered this matter at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting on July 10, 2015;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City hereby expresses its approval of the Ability Network, Inc. application for an award and/or rebate from the Job Creation Fund Program.