

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

Date: March 23, 2010

To: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Community Development Committee

Referral to: Council Member Betsy Hodges, Ways & Means/Budget Committee

Subject: Acceptance of Department of Labor Pathways Out of Poverty Grant funds.

Recommendation: Authorization to enter into a contract with the US Department of Labor to accept \$4,000,000 for the time period of 1/29/10 to 1/28/12 for the Pathways Out of Poverty Grant.

Previous Directives: August 28, 2009 Council authorization to apply for a grant, in cooperation with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, from the US Department of Labor.

Prepared by: Deb Bahr-Helgen, Director, METP 673-6226

Approved by: Charles T. Lutz, Deputy Director, CPED _____

Cathy Polasky, Director Economic Policy & Development _____

Presenters in Committee: Deb Bahr-Helgen, METP

Reviews

- Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval ___ Date N/A
- Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval ___ Date N/A

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Community Impact

- City Goals – One Minneapolis
- Living Wage/Business Subsidy Agreement Yes _____ No X

Supporting Information

The City of Minneapolis Employment and Training Program, in cooperation with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, has been awarded \$4 million by the Department of Labor for the Pathways Out of Poverty Grant, through the Renewable Energy Network Empowering Workers (RENEW) Project in Minneapolis and St. Paul. This project focuses on providing sustainable pathways out of poverty for some of the cities' most disadvantaged citizens, while ensuring that area businesses have access to a well-trained workforce that is prepared to carry out the work of greening the local economy.

The RENEW employment and training program builds upon the economic development opportunities present in the emerging green industry sector of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Recent market research indicates that the two cities are national leaders in developing green enterprises in manufacturing, renewable energy, building systems management, and construction/deconstruction. The two cities are also well-positioned for further growth in these sectors.

Through its participant-focused collaborative program model, RENEW will have a regional strategy to provide pathways out of poverty for 500 disadvantaged job seekers. RENEW uses the collective strengths of the City of Minneapolis Workforce Council, Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board, neighborhood-based non-profits, labor organizations, education and training institutions, and the green business community. RENEW presents a unique opportunity to not only build the economic capital of low-income residents, but to build the workforce capital of the region's large green business base.

The operational partners for the RENEW project will include:

Guadalupe Alternative Program; MN Transitions Charter School; the Minneapolis North and South WorkForce Centers (DEED); Goodwill/Easter Seals; EMERGE Community Development; Resource, Inc.; HIRED; American Indian OIC; Minneapolis Urban League; Project for Pride in Living (PPL); Lifetrack Resources; Women Venture; Rebuild Resources; Summit Academy OIC; M&J Environmental; Minneapolis Community and Technical College; Dunwoody College of Technology; St. Paul College; Century College; St. Paul Adult Basic Education; Minneapolis Adult Basic Education; United Way; and Minneapolis & St. Paul Building Trades.