

March 28, 2024

To Whom it May Concern

Ramsey County Workforce Solutions (WFS) provides employment and training program for the county including the city of Saint Paul. In addition, WFS is the administrative entity for the local workforce development area's Workforce Innovation Board. Ongoing efforts are in place to support underinvested job seekers in our community to access training and education to family sustaining wage jobs. We do this through leveraging federal and state funding as well as county and city resources. Both the city, county and the workforce board have been deeply committed to construction career pathways through a Building Your Own Future initiative aiming to do outreach/engagement and supports for our diverse and young residents to connect to union construction employment.

Ramsey County Workforce Solutions is deeply committed to partnering with the City of Saint Paul as part of the Clean Heat Saint Paul project. Clean Heat Saint Paul will be a transformative project for our community, delivering clean energy to over 33 million square feet of space in and around downtown Saint Paul.

Ramsey County Workforce Solutions will partner with the City of Saint Paul, District Energy Saint Paul, and the Metropolitan Council to help build new pathways into good-paying jobs for low-income residents of Saint Paul. As part of the Clean Heat Saint Paul project, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions will hire a .5 FTE workforce professional to help District Energy, Saint Paul, and affiliated local unions build out new career pathways into multiple types of positions at District Energy Saint Paul, including the recruitment of apprenticeships and development of new apprenticeship opportunities. Staff efforts and leveraged funding will ensure alignment for dedicated technical assistance to reduce hiring barriers for employers engaged in this grant. In addition, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions offers many initiatives and connections that will be leveraged:

- **Connect to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Temporary Aid to Needy Families** program participants to access training and employment opportunities prioritizing low-income residents, veterans, and those experiencing employment barriers.
- **Job Connect:** Ramsey County provides a free, online job board, for employers and job seekers with unique features, including the ability to search by jobs that are accessible via public transportation.
- **Workforce Training Dashboard:** Ramsey County provides a free, online board that hosts information on many different occupational training programs that are offered to residents for free. This board includes training focused on technology & construction. Residents can search by industry. It is free for training programs to post on the board.
- **Skills Based Hiring Accelerator:** The Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County partners with Goodwill Easter Seals, the Urban League, the Saint Paul Area Chamber and the Minneapolis Regional Chamber for the MN Skills-Based Hiring Accelerator program. The program assists employers to build a plan to attract, hire and retain the best talent through

workshops and other supportive resources to rebuilding an employers' hiring process with a skills and competency-based approach by focusing on candidates' capabilities rather than credentials, improving retention by rebuilding job descriptions, and interview processes.

- **Inclusive Employer Toolkit:** Ramsey County's Workforce Innovation Board has provided a new interactive and downloadable online tool kit to support HR professionals in the region increase diversity, equity and inclusion in their organizations.
- **High School Coordination:** Ramsey County has close connections and access to local public school's college, career readiness & technical education departments. Ramsey County supports and provides a number of career exploration events for students throughout the school year, including the Youth Career Connect Day and Construct Tomorrow events.
- **Fair Opportunities Advisory Group** which strategies outreach and support to employers to provide fair chance employment.

Ramsey County is excited to support Clean Heat Saint Paul. Our community is positioned well to leverage these infrastructure investments as a critical mechanism to closing economic disparities. We look forward to partnering on the successful implementation of this project. Please let me know if you have additional questions that I can help with.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ling Becker".

Ling Becker
Workforce Solutions Director
Workforce innovation of Board Ramsey County Executive Director