



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

Date: November 8, 2011

To: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Community Development Committee

**Subject: Request to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.**

**Recommendation:** Committee approval to apply for grants in excess of \$250,000 from Department of Labor Funds for the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) H1-B Technical Skills Training Grant.

**Previous Directives: None**

Prepared by: Deb Bahr-Helgen, Director, METP (612) 673-6226  
Approved by: Charles T. Lutz, Deputy Director, CPED \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Polasky, Director Economic Policy & Development, CPED \_\_\_\_\_  
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 – Jobs and Economic Vitality

### Supporting Information

The City of Minneapolis Employment and Training Program and Ramsey County Workforce Solutions anticipate making an application for a U.S. Department of Labor ETA H1-B Technical Skills Training Grant. The grant is designed to provide education, training and job placement assistance to American workers in the occupations and industries for which employers are currently using H1-B visas to hire foreign workers. The goal of this H1-B grant application is to increase the skills, educational level, and employability of the American workforce in the high-tech manufacturing industry within the seven-county metro area. In order to provide a regional outreach for candidates, a network of services will be created including recruitment, assessment, career counseling, supportive services, placement, and retention services for long-term unemployed regional residents. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was sent out to eight regional Workforce Service Areas and METP eligible providers, in order to generate a matrix of potential employment service providers for this project. City procedures require an approval of grant applications in excess of \$250,000.