



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

Date: July 23, 2007

To: Council Member Scott Benson, Health, Energy & Environment Committee

Referral to: Council Member Paul Ostrow, Ways & Means/Budget Committee

Subject: Acceptance of NorthWay Community Trust funds.

Recommendation: Authorization to enter into a contract with NorthWay Community Trust to accept \$380,000 for the time period of 6/15/07 to 6/14/08 for the NorthWay Family Project.

Previous Directives: None

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

Approved by: Charles T. Lutz, Deputy Director, 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 – One Minneapolis
- Living Wage/Business Subsidy Agreement Yes_____ No X

Supporting Information

The Minneapolis Employment and Training Program; Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department; and the Minneapolis Public Schools have formed a unique and unprecedented partnership to provide a family-centered approach to serving disadvantaged and low income families in North Minneapolis. This partnership will assist disadvantaged youth and their families obtain work based life skills. Youth will earn a wage while gaining confidence and strengthening connections back to the school they attend while the parent will obtain transferable job skills that could launch them into a career path. This is a new concept of reaching an entire family with employment,

coaching sessions, and a potential career path. This approach will systematically change the lives of 200 families through family-centered employment and training services.

Youth Employment Component:

The fundamental concept of this program is to provide additional enhancements and supports to the youth employment program operated by the Minneapolis Public School (MPS) system and funded by Minneapolis Employment and Training Program (METP). Approximately 200 families who reside in zip codes 55411 and 55412 will be targeted for this project (including the Ilion and James Housing Clusters). Students will be matched with local employers who will provide learning rich employment for the 2007 summer and into the '07-'08 school year.

Parental Employment Component:

The goal is to engage parents in meaningful employment that could launch them onto a career path. Additional in-kind dollars would be leveraged through Hennepin County to provide the NorthWay Family Project participant's parent(s) to become a paid "Community Youth Worker Trainee" for the youth crew. Eligible parents will be connected to the supported work program which will provide them a subsidized wage of \$6.15 per hour for the time they work assisting in supervision of the youth crew. *Hennepin County is providing this parental wage and coordination as an in-kind contribution to the Northway Project.* The benefit to the family will be substantial; parents will be providing a role model for their child(ren), be engaged in meaningful work and obtain job skills that can transfer into other occupations. MPS will provide additional job specific training, including but not limited to; CPR, sexual harassment and diversity training. This Community Youth Worker Trainee experience could provide a career path for the parent into careers such as Teaching Assistant (\$14/hr) and other career opportunities.

Family Component:

The connector that will provide outreach, support and resources to this project is the NorthWay Family Coach'. All students and parents in the project will benefit from the services of the Northway Family coach who will assist in providing support and mentoring for the duration of the project.