



Business Services/Economic Development Committee

March 9, 2023

Committee Resources

1. USDA Rural Development Programs – the full list of programs is available on the USDA website. In this meeting, the programs specifically mentioned include:
 - a. [Rural Innovation Stronger Economic \(RISE\) grants](#) – Itasca County was recently awarded
 - b. [Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge](#)
 - c. [Fertilizer Production Expansion Program](#)
 - d. [Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program](#)
 - e. [Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program](#)
 - f. [Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program](#)
 - g. [Agriculture Innovation Center Program](#)
 - h. [Value-Added Producer Grants](#)
 - i. [Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant](#)
 - j. [Rural Business Development Grant](#)
 - k. [Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants](#)
 - l. [Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program](#)
 - m. [Rural Development Broadband ReConnect Program](#)
 - n. [Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program](#)
2. [Sign up here](#) to receive USDA Rural Development Gov. Delivery emails
3. Visit the [Minnesota page](#) for USDA Rural Development for updates
4. View [all contacts](#) for USDA Rural Development in Minnesota
5. Not sure where to start? Try the Ask USDA website! <https://ask.usda.gov/s/>
6. In partnership with Minnesota’s Department of Human Services, MCCD recently launched the [Home and Community Based Services Workforce Development cooperatives grant program](#). Ten grants are available to qualifying applicants and selected groups will receive up to a total of \$162,000, split over two years along with expert advising to guide them through the process of establishing a cooperative business. The purpose of the program is to help direct care / direct support professionals (such as CNAs or home health aides) establish employee-owned cooperative home and community-based services businesses (such as a residential group home or an in-home care business). The grant can also be used to transition an existing home and community-based services business to an employee-owned cooperative. [See also the DHS page on the same program](#).
7. [Dislocated Worker Reports](#) – DEED
8. A TEGL recently came out from US DOL that focused heavily on job quality. See this good example from Colorado on [Job Quality efforts](#). Scroll down to “For Employers” to see their [Job Quality Checklist for Employers](#).
9. [2023 Minnesota Chamber Foundation Workforce Summit: Promoting Economic Opportunity for All](#) – Friday, March 31st from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Hyatt Regency Bloomington

10. Plans are still in the works for Healthcare Month this summer with CareerForce. Healthcare will probably be highlighted over June, July, and August. More information to come.
11. Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry [2023 Youth Skills Training Grant Recipients](#) were just announced in mid-February
12. [Dual Training Grant Request for Application](#) closes April 3, 2023
13. Ramsey County Means Business: [Workforce Recruitment Resources Fair](#) on Thursday, April 13, 8:00 – 10:00 AM. “This event is NOT a job fair – rather, we’re inviting employers throughout Ramsey County to stop by and meet the many community-based organizations that have training programs supporting a variety of industries and occupations.”
14. Ramsey County [Inclusive Workplaces Cohort](#)
15. News article from [2022 Welcome Home Party and Fair Chances Hiring Fair](#) – Ramsey County is planning on doing this again in 2023, stay tuned for more information