

City of Ramsey

Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund Guidelines

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City of Ramsey
Community Development Division
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Economic Development Revolving Loan Guidelines

I. Purpose.

The purpose of these guidelines is to establish policies and procedures to regulate, coordinate, and facilitate the workflow for underwriting new financing requests, servicing revolving loans, and ensuring borrower compliance with loan terms and conditions.

II. Authorization and Funding Sources.

Chapter 469 of the Minnesota State Statutes, as amended, authorizes the City of Ramsey to make loans to prospective private businesses. The revolving loan fund was capitalized through funds made available by the City of Ramsey and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

III. Mission.

The mission of the revolving loan fund is to increase the City's tax base, create and retain permanent private sector jobs and improve economic opportunity and living standards for the citizens of Ramsey by promoting local business development and expansion, by attracting out-of-state business expansion, leveraging private sector funds, and assisting with the development of new technologies.

IV. Program Objective.

The objective of the revolving loan fund is to fill the financing gap between project costs and private debt financing and private equity by making direct low-interest rate loans for certain approved activities to businesses within the Ramsey city limits.

V. Eligible Activities.

- A. Loan funds may be used to assist small businesses primarily by providing financial assistance for the following types of activities, including but not limited to: growth and expansion, rehabilitation, code compliance, employee recruitment and retention through housing initiatives, and facade enhancement.

B. Eligible costs. Eligible costs may include the following:

1. Land improvements. Improvements to the land which are a portion of the project cost including but not limited to: grading, new streets or street improvements, parking lots, utilities, and landscaping.
2. Purchase or renovation of building. Purchase and, if necessary, renovation of an existing industrial or commercial facility is permitted.
3. Purchase machinery or equipment. Purchase of major items of machinery and equipment independent of land and buildings. These items must be defined to have a useful life of at least 5 years.
4. Building construction. Construction of a new building and/or a major addition to an existing building.
5. Leasehold improvements. Revolving loan funds may be used for certain leasehold improvements provided the lease is equal to or greater than the term of the loan and the City secures a lien on the land or building, and improvements.

VI. Ineligible Activities. Certain applicants, projects, activities, and costs are ineligible for revolving loan funds.

- A. Ineligible activities. Funds may not be used for nonprofit institutions, retail businesses, gambling organizations, lending or investment organizations, land speculation, or any activity deemed illegal by federal, state, or local law or ordinance.
- B. Ineligible costs. Ineligible costs include but are not limited to: management fees, financing costs, franchise fees, debt repayment or consolidation, moving costs, refinancing, and operating costs or working capital.

VII. Loan Terms and Conditions

The City shall make available to eligible applicants direct low-interest loans for the purpose of encouraging economic development, job creation and job retention to meet business needs, and preservation of business districts in the City of

Ramsey.

- A. Loan amount. There are maximum and minimum loan amounts for eligible projects.
 - 1. Maximum loan amount. The maximum loan available from the revolving loan fund for each eligible project is limited to \$300,000.00 or 40% of total project cost, whichever is less.
 - 2. Minimum loan amount. The minimum loan amount available from the revolving loan fund for each eligible project is \$25,000.00.
- B. Interest rate. The interest rate shall be a fixed-rate and will be equal to the 10-year Treasury bond rate at the date of funding but shall not be less than 3.0%.
- C. Term. The term of the loan will be tied to the useful life of the assets being financed. The following general terms apply:
 - 1. Machinery/equipment. The term of the loan for machinery/equipment shall not exceed 7 years.
 - 2. Land/building acquisition. The term of the loan for land/building shall not exceed 15 years.
 - 3. New construction/renovation. The term of the loan for new construction/renovation shall not exceed 15 years.
 - 4. Balance due. All balances will be due and payable if and when the loan recipient sells or otherwise transfers any or part or his/her interest in the property or fails to meet any of the guidelines established within this document before the maturity date of the loan or relocates any part or all of the business outside the City of Ramsey.
- D. Wage and job goals.
 - 1. Wage and Job goals shall be established for all loans in excess of \$75,000. The wage and job goals will be identified in the Loan Agreement between the City of Ramsey and the borrower. The loan

agreement, must include: (1) the number of jobs created, which may include separate goals for the number of part-time or full-time jobs, or, in cases where job loss is specific and demonstrable, goals for the number of jobs retained; (2) wage goals for any jobs created or retained; and (3) wage goals for any jobs to be enhanced through increased wages. If the creation or retention of jobs is determined not to be a goal after a public hearing, the wage and job goals may be set at zero.

2. A business that receives revolving loan funds must agree to list any vacant or new position with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

- E. Equity participation. There shall be a minimum 10% owner equity investment of total project costs required of all applicants.
- F. Collateral requirements. All loan agreements will be secured by one or more of the following; promissory note, mortgage, or security agreement as required by the City; and
 1. The revolving fund may take a subordinate position to the primary lender on the assets financed; and
 2. Surety deposits shall be required for certain construction contracts as set forth in Minnesota Statutes 290.9705.
- G. Letters of Commitment. Letters of commitment from all funding sources must be submitted for the application to be deemed complete.
- H. Personal guaranty. Personal guarantees of persons with ownership interest of 20% or greater are required. Personal guarantees of persons with ownership interest between 5% to 19% may be required by the City but are discretionary.
- I. Loan repayments. Loan payments must begin within one month of receipt of the Revolving Loan. The City of Ramsey may make exceptions to this rule on a case-by-case basis.
- J. Loan prepayment. Prepayments are permitted where the Borrower makes the EDA whole for any losses or costs associated with the prepayment.

- K. Notice of award or denial. Applicants will be notified in writing not more than fourteen (14) days after final action has been taken on their revolving loan fund application by the City.
- L. Loan closing documents. The City will close the loan within sixty (60) days of final City approval of the loan application. At that time, the City will deliver to the Borrower all closing documents and a final debt service schedule. In exchange, the Borrower will deliver to the City its loan obligation which is defined as a bond, note, or other evidence of obligation issued by the Borrower to evidence its indebtedness under the loan agreement.
- M. Post closing amendments and modifications. Requests for amendments and modifications following award, closing or disbursement of funds to the underwriting of the original request require City approval and shall be presented at the next scheduled meeting of the EDA.
- N. Loan declination. The City will not make a loan if it determines the loan amount would place an undue burden on the financial resources of the Borrower or the Borrower cannot demonstrate adequate financial capacity to repay the loan or the City determines that making the loan is not in the best interest of the City.
- O. Appeal. There will be a complaint and appeal procedure for aggrieved applicants:
 - 1. Written notice. Applicants will receive written notice of denial of the loan and the reasons(s) for the determination within fourteen (14) days of the determination.
 - 2. Petition. The aggrieved applicant may petition the EDA in writing for reconsideration within fourteen (14) days from date of the written notice of denial. Any request to appear before the EDA must be in writing and must be submitted at least seven (7) days prior to the EDA's scheduled meeting. Upon receipt of the written petition for reconsideration, the EDA shall consider the petition at its next scheduled meeting and advise the petitioner in writing of its decision within fourteen (14) days of that meeting. The EDA's decision will be final.
 - 3. Re-application. Applicants aggrieved by the EDA's final decision may re-apply for revolving loan funds after ninety (90) days if the concerns in the

preceding application are adequately and appropriately addressed.

VIII. Administration.

- A. Loan review committee. The Ramsey EDA will serve as the loan review committee. The final determination on all revolving loan applications rests with the City Council.
- B. Conflict of Interest. All city officials and employees shall comply with the applicable conflict of interest regulations set forth in the City Code.
- C. Staff responsibility. Community development staff shall have the general responsibility for coordinating the application process, reviewing loan application, preparing applications and recommendations for review by the EDA, and coordinating the loan approval and service process as set forth in Subsections D -- G of this section.
- D. Pre-application process. All parties seeking revolving loan funds must file a pre-application. Pre-application forms may be obtained from the Community Development Department.
 - 1. There will be a pre-application form that must be completed and submitted to the Community Development Department for review and approval.
 - 2. The pre-application form will request information regarding the applicant, project scope, and project costs.
 - 3. Upon Community Development Department approval, the applicant will be forwarded a revolving loan fund application.
 - 4. Pre-application forms may be submitted on an open basis throughout the year.
- E. Application process. All parties seeking revolving loan funds must file an application. Application forms may be obtained from the Community Development Department.
 - 1. Components of application. Only completed applications will be reviewed for consideration by community development staff. A completed application is one that satisfies the checklist provided below:

- a. Business plan describing the scope of the project, including site plans, building plans, renderings, or blueprints;
 - b. Project budget;
 - c. Private financing commitment;
 - d. Equity investment commitment;
 - e. Proposed security;
 - f. Company financial statements (3 years);
 - g. Personal financial statements (2 years);
 - h. Credit check release;
 - i. Mortgage or lease of property to be improved;
 - j. Proof of insurance of property to be improved;
 - k. Number of jobs to be created or retained;
 - l. Wage information;
 - m. Amount of loan request; and
 - n. Other documentation as requested.
2. Incomplete applications. Community development staff, in its sole discretion, will determine if the application is complete and actionable. Incomplete applications will be assigned *pending* status and the applicant will be informed in writing of the missing documentation.
 3. Transmittal. Applications transmitted by oral, telegraphic, facsimile, or e-mail will not be accepted.
 4. Determination of eligibility. Applicant eligibility will be determined by community development staff using criteria enumerated in subsection D (1) of this section.
 5. Site inspection. As part of the eligibility determination process, the city will inspect the property or building designated for improvements for compliance with the city administrative ordinances and zoning codes.
 6. Credit check. A credit check for the company and each of its principal owners shall be conducted by community development staff.
- F. Loan approval process. Community development staff will prepare loan applications and make recommendations to the EDA.
1. EDA agenda. Upon determining the eligibility of the completed application

and reviewing for credit worthiness and soundness of plan, community development staff will place loan application the on the agenda for the EDA's next scheduled meeting.

2. Criteria. The EDA will base their decision on the economic benefit to the City of Ramsey, credit underwriting typical to the lending community including the borrower's ability to repay the loan and the collateral offered to secure the loan, the number of jobs to be created or retained, wage rates of jobs created or retained, and increase in the local tax base.
 3. EDA action. Upon placement on the agenda, the EDA shall approve, deny, or postpone for consideration at a future meeting the loan application request.
 4. Notification of EDA action. The applicant shall be notified in writing within fourteen (14) days of the EDA's decision in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section VII, Subsection M of these guidelines.
 5. Approval. If approved, the applicant will be sent a written commitment letter that will outline the terms and conditions of the loan approval. A copy of the commitment letter will be signed by the Borrowers and Guarantors signifying acceptance of the terms and conditions of the loan proposal and the conditions for funding. Upon the return of the executed commitment letter, community development staff will begin the loan closing process with the City Attorney.
 6. Closing. The City Attorney will prepare documentation and coordinate the closing with the Borrower or the Borrower's counsel.
- G. Loan servicing. Community development staff will coordinate loan servicing activities.
1. Monitoring. Community development staff will monitor loans for compliance with the accepted terms and conditions including job creation statistics and wage and benefit levels.
 2. Reports. Community development staff and finance staff are responsible for ensuring that all required reports are filed in a timely manner.
 3. Records. Computer files and conventional paper files will be maintained for the purpose of documenting, tracking, and monitoring program and project

activities. Program records will be maintained by the Community Development staff and financial records will be maintained primarily by the Finance Division. Where applicable, the following records will be maintained:

- a. Program records. The following program information will be maintained in the program project file, including but not limited to:
 - i. Environmental report;
 - ii. Eligibility determination records as set forth in Section VIII, Subsection E (1) (a-n);
 - iii. Property inspection report;
 - iv. Progress reports;
 - v. EDA Resolutions;
 - vi. Correspondence;
 - vii. Loan documents; and
 - viii. Executed loan agreement.

- b. Financial records. The following financial information will be maintained in the financial project file, including but not limited to:
 - i. Copy of the executed loan agreement;
 - ii. Disbursement data;
 - iii. Progress reports;
 - iv. Repayment data; and
 - v. Amortization tables.

4. Record retention. All program and financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, environmental review records and other records pertinent to the revolving loan program shall be maintained for a period of at least three (3) years from the final project report and project closeout date.

IX. Delinquency. There shall be a notification procedure for delinquent loans.

- A. The finance officer is responsible for the timely posting and of all loan repayments.

- B. Thirty day notice. Upon thirty (30) days delinquency, the finance officer will notify the Finance Director (FD) of the delinquency and the Director shall send the borrower a delinquency notice requesting payment within fifteen

(15) days. A copy of the letter shall be forwarded to the City Administrator (CA).

C. Forty-five day notice. If payment has not been received by the 45th day a second delinquency notice will be sent to the Borrower by the FD requesting payment within fifteen (15) days. A copy of the letter shall be forwarded to the CA.

D. Sixty day notice. If payment has not been received by the 60th day, the FD will attempt to contact the Borrower by telephone to the delinquency. The FD shall also send a notice of default to borrower via certified mail requesting immediate payment and advising the borrower the delinquency will be placed on the EDA agenda for discussion at the next scheduled meeting.

E. Ninety day notice. If no repayment plan is submitted by the Borrower, or if there is no attempt by the Borrower to negotiate the amount due, the FD will contact the CA and the City Attorney to sending a 90 day letter calling due the loan in full.

F. Negotiation. Throughout this process, every attempt will be made to preserve the company, the jobs, and the loan funds.

X. Default. If the EDA determines a loan to be in default it will pass a resolution declaring the entity in default and convey the matter to the City Attorney for disposition.

XI. Recaptured funds. The Ramsey Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund will serve as the repository for all loan repayments. These recaptured funds are available to other applicants for utilization as gap financing for certain approved economic development projects. The revolving loan fund shall be administered by a financial management system in compliance with all state and federal requirements.

XII. Funding acknowledgement. For projects financially supported by revolving loan funds the Borrower shall:

A. Acknowledge revolving loan fund support in certain written materials

including company brochures, reports, newsletters, and press releases; and

- B. On the building or expansion construction site post a sign acknowledging financial support from the State of Minnesota and the City of Ramsey.

XIII. Guidelines for the regulation of State Economic Development Revolving Loan Funds.

- A. General. The following rules, regulations, policies, and procedures govern state economic development revolving loan funds.
- B. Incorporation by Reference. The dissemination, use, and regulation of state economic development revolving loan funds shall be generally governed by guidelines including:
 - 1. The Minnesota Investment Fund (MS.116J.8731).