



ANOKA COUNTY Regional Economic Development

To: Ramsey Economic Development Authority
From: Gregory Frahm-Gilles, Anoka County Director of Economic Development
Date: December 27, 2023
RE: Anoka County Regional Economic Development (ACRED) MOU Extension

The Anoka County Regional Economic Development (ACRED) Partnership is a collective of all 21 Anoka County municipalities to provide regional economic development services. This partnership was established in January 2019 through the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that all communities in Anoka County signed onto.

The key objective for ACRED is to provide regional economic development support to all 21 municipalities, helping each community bring their own unique economic development visions to fruition. The three core areas of emphasis include:

- **REGIONALISM:** Economic activity in one community extends into nearby communities. Economic challenges are often not limited to jurisdictional boundaries, too. Regionalism promotes collaboration amongst all municipalities on economic development opportunities to share ideas, best practices for programming and networks. Challenges impacting many municipalities can be worked on together. Share information on available programs and grants with municipal community development staff, chambers and businesses.
- **MARKETING:** Promote Anoka County as a region ripe for investment. Share Anoka County opportunities with real estate brokers, investors, developers and businesses looking at growth or relocation. For real estate professionals that are representing businesses in the market, share leads with municipalities in the targeted search area and collaborate to provide a comprehensive response to inquiries. If one targeted municipality cannot fulfill the site or building request, support the municipality by serving as a regional resource to try to keep that economic opportunity within Anoka County.
- **READINESS:** Create future opportunity by helping cities bring key development sites to market. Connect cities with available programs or contacts to assist in development, redevelopment or infill projects. Share best practices and data to position communities for future investment and help support resilient local economies.

Two major economic development planning efforts have been recently commenced and results are still pending. The first is a county-wide housing study, commissioned by the Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority. The second is an updated Strategic Plan for ACRED – fully funded with non-



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ACRED program funds. Results of these efforts will provide current information to help shape future objectives.

The original MOU established an initial term of five (5) years with an opportunity to renew for another five (5) year term. Given that results from the key planning documents are still pending, the ACRED Executive Committee felt that a 12-month extension on the existing MOU was justified to let those new planning initiatives be completed first. Once the results of those new efforts are released in 2024, a more robust conversation can then be had with the cities and county on ACRED objectives and organizational structure to ensure that ACRED is efficient and effective in addressing those updated objectives.

The MOU amendment document presented for consideration simply extends the same terms of the original MOU out another 12-months. The new MOU expiration date will be January 10, 2025.

While staffing expenses are covered by Anoka County, the operating budget for ACRED is split between all municipalities on a per capita basis at a rate of \$0.057 per resident. If approved, the City of Ramsey's 2024 contribution to ACRED will be \$1637, based on a certified 2022 population estimate of 28,712 residents.

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Consideration and approval of the 12-month extension to the existing ACRED Memorandum of Understanding, revising the MOU expiration date to January 10th, 2025.