

GRAND RAPIDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Thursday, October 22, 2015

4:00pm

Grand Rapids City Hall

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority will be held in Conference Room 2A in the Grand Rapids City Hall, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, in Grand Rapids, Minnesota on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 4:00pm.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Call of Roll
3. Setting of the Regular Agenda - *This is an opportunity to approve the regular agenda as presented or add/delete by a majority vote of the Commissioners present an agenda item.*
4. Approval of minutes from the September 24, 2015 regular meeting
5. Consider approval of claims
6. Consider approval of the First Amendment to Preliminary Development Agreement with Northrock Development, LLC.
7. Review and consider a request for financial support from northlandconnection.com.
8. Updates:
9. Adjourn

GREDA Members/terms:

Dale Christy – 12/31/16 (with council term)

Rick Blake – 12/31/18 (with council term)

Mike Przytarski – 3/1/21

Cory Jackson – 3/1/17

Mike Stefan – 3/1/18

Chris Lynch – 3/1/19

Sholom Blake – 3/1/19

**GRAND RAPIDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015
4:00 P.M.
GRAND RAPIDS CITY HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 2A
420 NORTH POKEGAMA AVE., GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA**

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, a Regular Meeting of the Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority (GREDA) was called to order on Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2A of City Hall, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll the following members were present: Commissioners: Sholom Blake, Dale Christy, Rick Blake, Cory Jackson, Mike Przytarski. Absent: Michael Stefan, Chris Lynch.

SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA: **Approved with addition.**

- **Approve payment to the H.R.A in the amount of \$16,034.63**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER PRZYTARSKI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 20, 2015 SPECIAL MEETING. The following voted in favor thereof: Jackson, R. Blake, S. Blake, Przytarski, Christy. Opposed: None, passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CHRISTY, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON TO APPROVE CLAIMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$587,616.79.

Abstract Service Company	\$571,344.27	Itasca County H.R.A	\$3,125.52
Itasca County Treasurer	\$2,760.00	Itasca Economic Development	\$10,000.00
Kennedy & Graven	\$387.00		

The following voted in favor thereof: Jackson, R. Blake, S. Blake, Christy, Przytarski. Opposed: None, passed unanimously.

Approve payment to the H.R.A in the amount of \$16,034.63

Motion by Commissioner Jackson, second by Commissioner Blake to approve payment in the amount of \$16,034.63 for the SCDP program. The following voted in favor thereof: Przytarski, Christy, S. Blake, R. Blake, Jackson. Opposed: None, passed unanimously.

Central School Pre-development Agreement Update-Northrock Development.

Ed Zabinski and Matt Lehtinen of Northrock Development provided and update on the possibility of a restaurant/brewpub. There has been interest from developers with regard to this

project but they have yet to put together an agreement. Mr. Zabinski felt if any development were to happen it wouldn't take place until 2016.

Consider approval of a Commercial Building Improvement Loan to Linda Budrow for improvements to the McAlpine Building.

The Budrows intend to replace 28 windows in the upper level of the building and 3 doors. Commissioners Przytarski and Stefan met with staff to review the application. Their recommendation is to approve the loan.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CHRISTY TO APPROVE THE CBIL LOAN TO LINDA BUDROW DBA MCALPINE RENTALS, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,735.50 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MCALPINE BUILDING. The following voted in favor thereof : Jackson, S. Blake, R. Blake, Przytarski, Christy.

Consider approval of a propane supply agreement with Northern Star Co-op.

The recently purchased Kent property had an agreement with Northern Star Co-op for their propane. Staff would like to continue using Northern Star Co-op and would like approval to enter into a tank and propane supply agreement with Northern Star Co-op.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PRZYTARSKI, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER R. BLAKE TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NORTHERN STAR CO-OP FOR TANK RENTAL A PROPANE DELIVERY. The following voted in favor thereof: Christy, Przytarski, R. Blake, S. Blake, Jackson. Opposed: None, passed unanimously.

Consider approval of a lease with Brenda Valtinson for space in Central School.

Brenda Valtinson is interested in leasing out one of the empty spaces at the Central School through the end of the year at a reduced rate of \$200.00 per month.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PRZYTARSKI, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CHRISTY TO APPROVE A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH BRENDA VALTINSON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200.00 PER MONTH. The following voted in favor thereof: Jackson, Christy, Przytarski, R. Blake, S. Blake. Opposed: None, passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Aurimy Groom, Recorder

DATE: 10/16/2015
 TIME: 15:12:58
 ID: AP443000.CGR

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
 DEPARTMENT SUMMARY REPORT

PAGE: 1

INVOICES DUE ON/BEFORE 10/22/2015

VENDOR #	NAME	AMOUNT DUE
EDA - CAPITAL PROJECTS		
STOREFRONT RENOVATION		
1105530	KENNEDY & GRAVEN	462.50
TOTAL STOREFRONT RENOVATION		462.50
AIRPORT SOUTH INDUSTRIAL PARKS		
0218115	BRAUN INTERTEC CORPORATION	8,100.00
0315455	COLE HARDWARE INC	56.28
0315472	COMFORT HEATING LLC	560.00
1105530	KENNEDY & GRAVEN	1,683.85
TOTAL AIRPORT SOUTH INDUSTRIAL PARKS		10,400.13
DEED DEVELOPMENT PROGAMS		
0920051	ITASCA COUNTY H.R.A.	42,232.72
TOTAL DEED DEVELOPMENT PROGAMS		42,232.72
TOTAL UNPAID TO BE APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF		\$ 53,095.35
CHECKS ISSUED-PRIOR APPROVAL		
PRIOR APPROVAL		
0920051	ITASCA COUNTY H.R.A.	16,034.63
1621130	P.U.C.	39.89
TOTAL PRIOR APPROVAL ALLOWED IN THE SUM OF: \$		16,074.52
TOTAL ALL DEPARTMENTS		69,169.87

FIRST AMENDMENT TO PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

This agreement is made as of _____, 2015, by and between the GRAND RAPIDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, a public body corporate and politic and political subdivision of the State of Minnesota (“GREDA”) and Northrock Development, LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company (the “Developer”).

WHEREAS, GREDA and the Developer entered into that certain Preliminary Development Agreement dated as of August 14, 2014 (the “Agreement”) providing, among other things, for the establishment of the Developer as the sole developer of space within Central School, described within the Agreement as (the “Redevelopment Property”); and

WHEREAS, both parties to the Agreement have satisfied their obligations as to the preparation, payment and sharing of the Feasibility Study, in accordance with the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Developer desires to continue their pursuit of the establishment of a restaurant/brewpub in Central School, described as (the “Redevelopment”) in the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, due to unanticipated delays experienced by the Developer in finalizing a plan for the Redevelopment, the Developer is not able to satisfy their obligations under the Agreement, within the term of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, GREDA and the Developer agree that an extension the term of the Agreement is mutually beneficial and is in keeping with the objectives of the *Central School Strategic Planning Report*.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual obligations of the parties hereto, each of them does hereby covenant and agree with the other as follows:

1. Amendment to Section 4(a) of the Agreement. Section 4(a) of the Agreement is amended as follows:
 - (a) Not renew current leases or approve new leases for space in the Redevelopment Property that would extend beyond December 31, 2016.

2. Amendment to Section 8 of the Agreement. Section 8 of the Agreement is amended as follows:

Section 8. Term of Agreement. This Agreement is effective from the date hereof through June 30, 2016. After such date, neither party shall have any obligation hereunder except as expressly set forth to the contrary herein.

This Agreement may also be terminated upon sixty (60) days written notice by GREDA to the Developer if:

- (a) an essential precondition to the execution of a definitive Contract cannot be met; or

(b) if, in the discretion of either GREDA or the Developer, an impasse has been reached in the negotiation or implementation of any material term or condition of this Agreement or the Contract.

3. Miscellaneous. Upon execution, Developer shall reimburse GREDA for all out-of-pocket-costs incurred by GREDA in connection with negotiating, drafting and approval of this Amendment.

4. Modifications. It is specifically agreed to that all of the other terms of the *Preliminary Development Agreement* dated August 14, 2014 remain in full force and effect other than those as modified above. Any other modifications of said Agreement must be evidenced in writing and must be signed by both parties.

Dated this ____ day of October, 2015.

Northrock Development, LLC

Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority

By: _____

By: _____

Its _____

Its President

By: _____

Its Executive Director

Rob Mattei

From: Chris Maddy <CMaddy@northspan.org>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Rob Mattei
Subject: Northland Connection Funding - 2015
Attachments: 2015 Northland Connection Strategic Plan_Budget FINAL.pdf; Grand Rapids Labor Force Summary_Machine Shop.pdf; Grand Rapids Labor Force Summary_Textile.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow Up
Due By: Friday, August 14, 2015 8:49 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Rob,

I'm writing you today to ask for \$2,500 to support the Northland Connection program in 2015. We bring value to the communities who support us in a variety of ways. We specialize in researching business data related to projects. Our vast network of people contribute heavily to our efforts.

A couple examples are attached. One is for a machine shop that landed in Grand Rapids; a second is from the textile community.

I have attached the scope of services, where we apply our dollars, who our funders are, and the budget for this year. I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Maddy
Director, Marketing & Business Recruitment
Director, Northland Connection

The Northspan Group Inc.
221 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802-1909

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cmaddy@northspan.org

NORTHSPAN
THE NORTHSPAN GROUP INC.

northspan.org
Creative Solutions for Business and Community Development

NORTHLAND CONNECTION
northlandconnection.com

NORTHFORCE
NORTHFORCE.org

2015 Northland Connection Program

Northland Connection Program Objective

Provide Economic Development Data and Analysis to Recruit, Expand and Retain Businesses; and Create New Jobs and Wealth within our Region.

Projected 2015 Partner Investment

\$130,518

Northland Connection Program and its Core Services

Your investment enables Northspan to generate and package economic development data for this region; to sustain and keep up-to-date Web-based tools designed to describe, illustrate, and market the area's economic development assets to targeted audiences.

Key Strategies/Tactics

#1 Manage and Market Northland Connection Program - \$33,602

- Position NC Program as the primary source for economic development information in the region
- Secure and utilize high-end, proprietary databases (e.g. Nexis, IBISWorld) and other library/online resources to generate business and industry data
- Provide targeted business and industry research and analysis for partner users of Northspan's in-depth, customized research and analysis, and data packaging services (12)
- Research and prepare detailed property options that meet the requirements of partner prospects and site selector clients (15)
- Qualify and respond to referrals and program-generated business expansion/retention inquiries (4)
- Target regional stakeholders and site selector networks to promote program services and the NC.com economic development portal
- Leverage peer group networks (i.e. BOMA, IREA, Minnesota Marketing Group, MN DEED, RAOR) and other opportunities to collaborate and promote Northland and its economic development assets
- Leverage funding partner marketing efforts
- Communicate program activities frequently to funding partners

#2 Manage Regional ED Portal, NorthandConexcion.com - \$64,122

- Communicate the region's competitive advantages and industry sectors
- Sustain the region's nationally-recognized regional economic development portal, maintaining high quality data, GIS mapping and imagery in the following categories:
 - Commercial/industrial real estate database which includes more than 400 sites and buildings in eight counties and 13 general/customizable demographic reports from ESRI
 - Area programs and services database which includes more than 350 programs and services such as business financing programs and workforce training services
 - Leading employers/industry clusters which includes a database of more than 350 employers and overviews of seven industry clusters
 - Utility rates and billings for Minnesota Power, Minnesota Energy Resources, five electric cooperatives and 58 municipal and public works utilities
 - Annual enrollment and graduation rates for 12 area community colleges and universities
 - Labor market information including salaries, payroll, and labor force data
 - Infrastructure including roadways, aviation, rail, taxation, and government contacts
 - Quality of life including climate, housing, crime, and secondary education statistics
 - Business news including relevant business development activities
- Automate demographics information through web services and strategic links
- Implement technical tactics to position NC.com to national audiences (e.g. SEO)
- Track utilization of NC.com to assess effectiveness
- Research innovation trends to ensure NC.com employs latest technology
- Work with third party programmers to improve technology and dynamic tools on NC.com
- Maintain license/hosting server relationships

Administration - \$10,524

- Funding development
- Invoicing
- Research and development
 - Meeting logistics
 - Graphic design
 - Peer meetings

Direct Costs - \$22,270

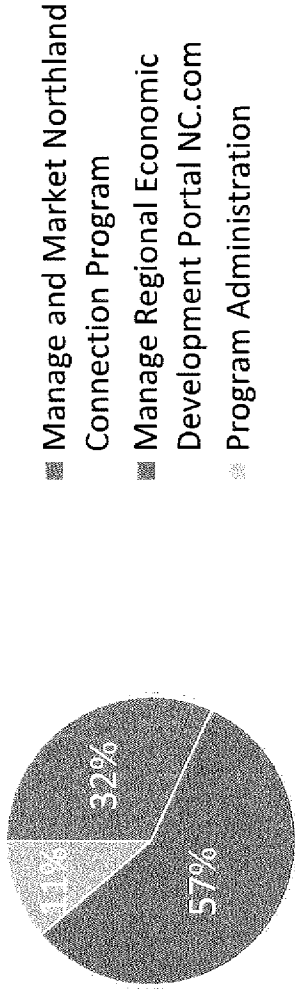
- Economic development (business and industry) data
- NC.com software license
- Staff travel, meeting expenses, postage, photocopying/printing, memberships, miscellaneous

Northland Connection Program Projected 2015 Budget

<i>Key Strategies/Tactics</i>	<i>Personnel Salaries & Fringe Benefits</i>	<i>Operating Support*</i>	<i>Direct Cost</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% Total Budget</i>
MANAGE AND MARKET NORTHLAND CONNECTION PROGRAM	20,833	12,769	8,000 BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY DATA	41,602	32%
MANAGE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTAL NC.COM	39,756	24,365	10,000 NC.COM SOFTWARE LICENSE	74,122	57%
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION	6,525	3,999	4,270 TRAVEL, MEETING EXPENSES, ETC.	14,794	11%
TOTAL	\$67,114	\$41,134	\$22,270	\$130,518	100%

**Operating support – rent, furniture, office supplies, telephone, fax, insurance, equipment such as computers, printers, servers, financial/accounting, and administrative/management services.*

Northland Connection Program Budget Allocation



Northland Connection Program Resource Allocation

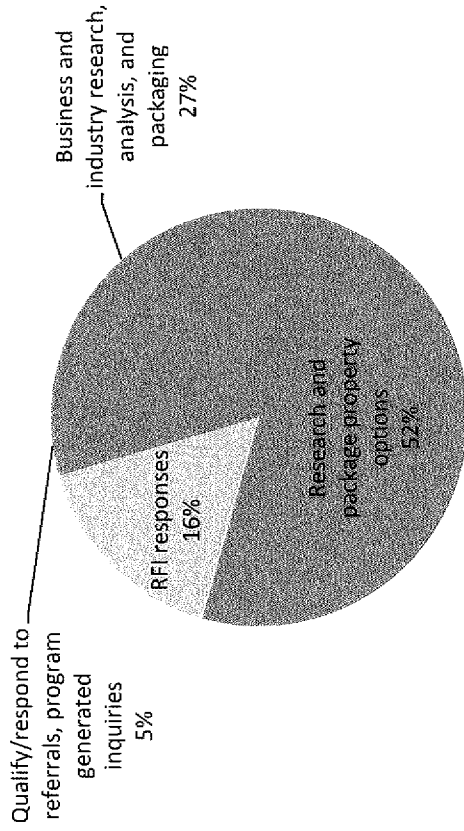
Program Costs

It takes \$99,076 a year or 76% of projected 2015 funding for the Northland Connection program to maintain the necessary foundation for a strong, vibrant program for the greater good of the region. This includes the direct costs associated with having access to proprietary data, technological infrastructure, and program management and administrative staff support for maintaining an award-winning, regional economic development portal, and basic operating support which includes office and meeting space, office equipment and day-to-day technology.

Partners underwrite core services outlined in our key strategies/tactics and the direct costs associated with delivering expected outcomes. The remainder pays for an anticipated 90+ requests for business, industry and real estate information and inquiries by partners and our network of site location consultants, who utilize about 31% of the program director's time for information requests:

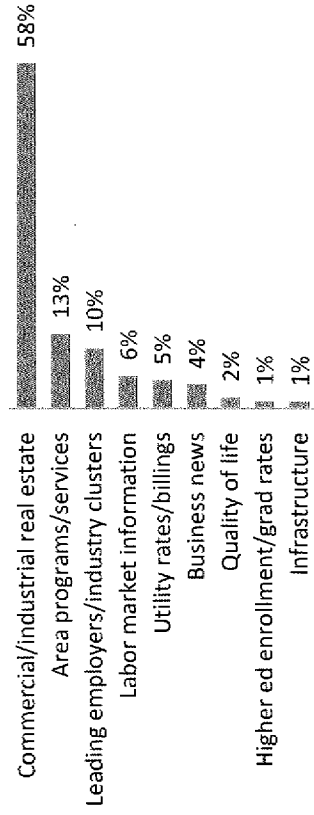
Core program and services	\$99,076
Information requests	\$31,442 (\$9,796 for site location consultants)

Program Director Time Allocation for Managing/Marketing NC



Director -- 398 hours (19%) Assistant Support -- 40 hours (2%)

Program Director Time Allocation for NC.com



Director -- 414 hours (20%) Assistant Support -- 504 hours (24%) Intern Support -- 420 hours

Partner Program Investment

\$25,000 – Minnesota Power

Minnesota Power has a presence in all eight counties Northland Connection covers. With a few exceptions, nearly all of the 65 plus communities profiled on NC.com and 400+ properties in the database are served by MP and/or Superior Water Light and Power. The utility relies on the program's research, analysis and packaging of demographic, business and industry data and real estate options.

\$20,000 – Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)

IRRRB has a presence in six counties served by Northland Connection. The agency serves 35 of the communities profiled on NC.com; 198 of the properties in the database are within IRRRB's service area. The agency relies on Northland Connection to manage property data and engages the program for some limited research and analysis of business and industry data.

\$15,000 – Area Partnership for Economic Expansion (APEX)

APEX has a presence in all eight counties Northland Connection covers and utilizes the program's research, analysis and packaging of business and industry data and real estate options.

\$27,500 – Duluth Economic Development Authority (DEDA)/Hermantown/St. Louis County

DEDA provides \$15,000 and has 134 of the sites and buildings in the database and utilizes the program's research, analysis and packaging of demographic, business and industry data and real estate options.

Hermantown contributes \$2,500 and has 19 of the sites and buildings in the database and utilizes the program's research, analysis and packaging of demographic, business and industry data and real estate options.

St. Louis County contributes \$10,000 and has 263 properties in the database including those associated with Duluth, Hermantown, and the Iron Range.

\$10,000 – Superior/Douglas County

Superior and Douglas County each contribute \$5,000. There are 30 sites and buildings from Superior/Douglas County in the database. Both utilize the program's research, analysis and packaging of demographic, business and industry data and real estate options.

\$5,000 – Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

ARDC has a presence in seven counties Northland Connection covers, five of which provide funding for Northland Connection (Carlton, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis counties). ARDC utilizes the program's research, analysis and packaging of demographic, business and industry data.

\$5,000 – Cloquet/Carlton County

Cloquet and Carlton County each contribute \$2,500. There are 44 sites and buildings from Cloquet/Carlton County in the database. Both utilize the program's research, analysis and packaging of demographic, business and industry data and real estate options.

\$5,000 – Two Harbors Economic Development Authority (THEDA)/Lake County

THEDA contributes \$1,000 and Lake County provides \$4,000 for the program. There are 20 sites and buildings from Two Harbors/Lake County in the database. Both utilize the program's research, analysis and packaging of demographic, business and industry data and real estate options.

\$5,000 – Duluth Seaway Port Authority

There are 15 sites controlled by DSPA in the database. DSPA also utilizes the program's research, analysis and packaging of demographic, business and industry data.

\$5,000 – Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority/Itasca Economic Development Corp.

GREDA and IEDC each contribute \$2,500 to the program. There are 53 sites and buildings from Grand Rapids/Itasca County in the database. Both utilize the program's research, analysis and packaging of demographic, business and industry data and real estate options.

\$2,500 – Fond du Lac Indian Reservation (FDL)

FDL has no sites or buildings in the database at this time. FDL engages the program for some limited research, analysis and packaging of demographic, business and industry data.

\$1,500 – Koochiching Economic Development Authority (KEDA)

Koochiching County has eight properties in the database and utilizes the program's research, analysis and packaging of demographic, business and industry data and real estate options.

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (MN DEED)

Staff provides in-kind assistance to MN DEED's regional economic development coordinator on responses to requests for information and other economic development activities in the region. We also partner with MN DEED's Regional Labor Analyst on packaging state labor market and industry information.

Northland Connection funders typically assign an individual to represent them on the program's Advisory Committee. Each funder has a Partner Profile on NorthlandConnection.com. Funders have access to non-confidential data generated by the program and all program communications.

In June 2014 the Advisory Committee and staff agreed that when requests of the program exceed the projected 2015 level of services previously outlined, staff will use an à la carte list of services and costs for completion:

Research & Customize Packaging of Verified Site/Building Locations

- Review NC.com database for sites/buildings matching client requirements
- Review results with area brokers to verify data and availability of properties; research new information requested by client
- Construct matrix of real estate options per client requirements
- Package site/building response, including matrix and support materials

Typical Turnaround: 2-4 hours

Projected Cost: \$250-\$500

Research & Customize Packaging of Snapshot of Company Specific Profiles

- Company Name, Headquarters Location, Founded, Description, Products or Service, Governance, Financial Information (if available), Industry, NAICS, Number of Employees, Address, Telephone, Email and Website
- Verify data from other sources
- Package snapshot profile

Typical Turnaround: 1 hour

Projected Cost: \$150

Research & Customize Packaging of Detailed Company Specific Profiles

- Everything included in a snapshot profile plus;
- Leadership Team, Markets, Partners/Investors, Competitors, Recent News, Unique Information (i.e. feedstocks for biofuel company), SWOT Analysis (if available), imagery
- Package detailed profile

Typical Turnaround: 3-4 hours

Projected Cost: \$300-\$400

Research & Customize Packaging of Targeted Demographic Profile from a Location, Community or Region

- Demographics, Personal, Disposable, and Household Income, Retail Market, Census and American Community Survey Statistics, Labor Market Information, Leading Employers, Regional Industries, Utility Rates and Capacities
- Package response per client's wishes

Typical Turnaround: 1-4 hours

Projected Cost: \$150-\$400

Research & Customize Packaging of Industry Sector-based Analysis

- Regional presence, national or global analysis, financial information

- Outlook, external drivers, supply chain, major markets, market share concentration and host of variables for more than 700 industry sectors
- Package response per client's direction

Typical Turnaround: 1-3 hours

Projected Cost: \$150-\$300

Other Project Specific Activities

Staff is available to perform other projects such as determining vacancy and absorption rates for targeted real estate or cataloging and analyzing developability of foreclosed properties, or developing an industry referral database of regional businesses seeking other business opportunities.

Grand Rapids Labor Force Summary

The Grand Rapids area draws its productive workforce from throughout northern Minnesota. Highly skilled workers live here in part because of the natural beauty and boundless recreational opportunities. Commuting 15-20 minutes through the area's scenic landscape is commonplace.



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

Today there are 1,132 individuals in the region surrounding Grand Rapids that are employed by companies requiring machining skill sets. Those skills range from computer-controlled machines (CNC) to cutting, punching, and press machine setters to lathe and turning machines.

Area college graduates bring basic and specific mechanical skills directly into the workplace. Hibbing Community College, a short distance from Grand Rapids, generates more than 20 individuals annually from its Industrial Systems Technology program. That program is so popular that when members of the Arrowhead Manufacturers & Fabricators Association recently toured the Hibbing campus, they remarked that they would have no problem hiring graduates of that program to their businesses.

The region's community colleges are associated with the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council, an industry-led training, assessment and certification system geared towards front-line production and material handling workers. The national MSSC system is recognized as the gold standard for front-line industrial training.

The State of Minnesota tracks ten occupations connected to machining. They list the number of employees in the area and the various wage rates that are paid. For instance the median wage for machinists in Northeastern Minnesota is \$18.03 per hour. A complete list of those wage rates are listed on the back page along with a comparison of the unemployment rates and number of machine shops in the area.

Occupation Data for Arrowhead Region, Second Quarter 2013				
SOC	Occupational Description	Employment	Mean	Median
51-4011	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	12	18.26	18.13
51-4021	Extruding and Drawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	50	13.77	13.43
51-4031	Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	80	16.48	15.50
51-4034	Lathe and Turning Machine Tool Setters, Operators, Tenders, Metal and Plastic	N/A	20.35	19.60
51-4041	Machinists	310	20.09	18.03
51-4062	Patternmakers, Metal and Plastic	10	20.68	21.06
51-4072	Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	40	17.35	18.17
51-4081	Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	10	13.60	13.73
51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	490	18.24	16.65
51-4122	Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	130	19.42	20.19

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Unemployment Statistics - August 2013				
Geography	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Itasca County	23,412	21,853	1,559	6.7%
Grand Rapids	5,759	5,271	488	8.5%
Hibbing	8,533	7,856	677	7.9%
Minnesota	-	-	-	4.8%
United States	-	-	-	7.3%

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

There are 18 machine shops in Grand Rapids, Hibbing, Virginia, Two Harbors, and Duluth.

Grand Rapids Labor Force Summary

The Grand Rapids area draws its productive workforce from throughout northern Minnesota. Highly skilled workers live here in part because of the natural beauty and boundless recreational opportunities. Commuting 15-20 minutes through the area's scenic landscape is commonplace.



CITY OF
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Today there are 350 individuals in the region surrounding Grand Rapids that are employed by companies requiring textile-related skill sets. Those skills include textile materials producers, sewing machine operators, textile cutting operators, and upholsterers.

Itasca Community College has historically leveraged Minnesota's Job Skills Partnership program where the state, local higher education institution, and qualified business strategically work together train or retrain workers in a particular skill set. Training grants up to \$400,000 are available to develop customized training programs to meet current and future workforce needs.

The region's community colleges are associated with the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council, an industry-led training, assessment and certification system geared towards front-line production and material handling workers. The national MSSC system is recognized as the gold standard for front-line industrial training.

The State of Minnesota tracks four occupations connected to textile production in this area. They list the number of employees in the area and the mean and median wage rates that are paid. For instance the median wage for pressers, textile, garment and related materials in Northeastern Minnesota is \$8.81 per hour. A complete list of those wage rates are listed on the back page along with a comparison of the unemployment rates and number of companies working in textiles in the area.

Occupation Data for Arrowhead Region, Second Quarter 2013				
SOC	Occupational Description	Employment	Mean	Median
51-6021	Pressers, Textile, Garment, and Related Materials	20	8.78/hr	8.81/hr
51-6031	Sewing Machine Operators	280	10.59/hr	10.36/hr
51-6062	Textile Cutting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	20	12.54/hr	12.07/hr
51-6093	Upholsterers	30	12.10/hr	13.34/hr

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Unemployment Statistics - May 2014				
Geography	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Itasca County	22,789	21,267	1,522	6.7%
Grand Rapids	5,517	5,042	475	8.6%
Hibbing	8,303	7,780	523	6.3%
Minnesota	-	-	-	4.2%
United States	-	-	-	6.1%

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Textile-Related Companies in Grand Rapids Area		
Name	# Employees	22 Textile-related companies elsewhere in the Northland
Keller Fence Company	15	
Custom Lettering	7	
Lefty's Canvas Shop	3	
La Vada's Interiors	2	
Sew Great Sew Small	1	

Source: ReferenceUSA