

Business Item

Management Committee



Committee meeting date: July 22, 2026

For the Metropolitan Council: August 12, 2026

Business Item: 2026-119

Voluntary Vision Plan Services, Contract 26P032

District(s), member(s):	All
Policy/legal reference:	FM14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff prepared/presented:	Michelle Murray, Sr Manager Benefits, 651-602-1390
Division/department:	RA Human Resources - Benefits

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 26P032 with Vision Service Plan to provide voluntary vision services for all eligible Council employees, retirees and dependents in the amount not to exceed \$2,530,739.

Background

Metropolitan Council offers two voluntary vision plans to eligible employees, dependents and retirees. Employees pay the full cost for vision coverage. Voluntary vision coverage is available in all union contract for employees who are benefit eligible. The Council utilizes an insurance company to provide account administration which includes claim processing and customer service along with a fully insured insurance product for the payment of any claims. The Council currently has approximately 4,800 employees eligible for Voluntary Vision Plan Services with 3,200 enrolled.

A Request for Proposals was issued on March 13, 2026. A pre-proposal meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications and responded to plan holder inquiries. There were nine registered plan holders, eight prime proposers, and one plan room.

The Council received three proposals on April 27, 2026, to be evaluated for the consideration of award and used the proposer quality, qualifications of the proposer, experience of the proposer, and price of the proposal as the criteria for evaluation. The evaluation panel reached consensus that the proposal submitted by Vision Service Plan is the most advantageous to the Council and recommend for award.

Rationale

The execution of a professional service contract exceeding \$2,000,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive lens analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, the Voluntary Vision Plan contract supports the Thrive outcomes of Stewardship and Sustainability by providing these services at a sustainable cost over the next five years

Funding

Funding for voluntary vision services is available through employee premium payroll deductions and retiree contributions.

Small business inclusion

The Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs (OCR SB) thoroughly reviewed this procurement for Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) opportunities in accordance with applicable law and the contract specifications. Upon conclusion of OCR SB's research and analysis, no MCUB goal was set.

