

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT OF IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR IOWA CHOICE HARVEST, LLC - NO LOCAL MATCH REQUIRED

BACKGROUND:

Iowa Choice Harvest, LLC is a start-up company that is seeking state assistance in establishing a fruit and vegetable processing facility in Ames that will freeze Iowa fruits and vegetables for grocery stores and institutions. The products will be marketed within Central Iowa. The proposed facility size is approximately 9,000 square feet and will be improved to a food grade facility. The location is yet to be determined, but the company plans to locate in an area where they can work closely with ISU students. The company expects to create four full-time jobs and three part-time jobs.

The Iowa Choice Harvest application for assistance to the IDED will be reviewed for approval by the Iowa Economic Development Authority in April with assistance requested under the Value-Added Agriculture Program. **There is no local match from the City required** for this project, but the company does need a local sponsor to receive assistance from the State. For the Iowa Economic Development Authority to continue consideration of this project, the City Council must adopt a resolution supporting the submittal of the Iowa Choice Harvest application for assistance. Total investment for the project is expected to be \$1,025,284.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adopt a resolution supporting the submittal of an application from Iowa Choice Harvest, LLC, requesting economic development assistance from the Iowa Economic Development Authority with the City of Ames acting as local sponsor.
2. Deny the application for assistance.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The proposed project has the potential to provide expansion of quality jobs and property tax base and without additional public infrastructure.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative 1, thereby adopting a resolution supporting the submittal of an application from Iowa Choice Harvest, LLC, requesting economic development assistance from the Iowa Economic Development Authority with the City of Ames acting as local sponsor.