

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Versique Search & Consulting**

Paul Bees

 952.767.3154

 pbees@versique.com



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## Versique Search & Consulting Partners with the Association for Black Economic Power to Establish First Black-Led Credit Union in Minnesota

**[Minneapolis, Minn.]** – Minneapolis-based Executive Search & Consulting firm, Versique, has partnered with the Association for Black Economic Power (ABEP)—a nonprofit organization created to establish the state's first Black-led credit union to address systemic financial challenges impacting Minneapolis residents.

The Credit Union will be named "Village Financial Credit Union." In the establishment of Village Financial Credit Union, Versique will help identify and recruit qualified candidates for the position of CEO at no charge.

"This is an excellent opportunity for Versique to provide visible and meaningful assistance to a community project that will positively impact the lives of North Minneapolis residents," says Paul Bees, Senior Practice Director for the Banking & Financial Services division at Versique. Versique is a high-performance recruiting firm that specializes in interim solutions, direct hire, and executive leadership search. Versique completed over 220 search assignments in 2021, with 40 executive leadership positions in the past 12 months.

The idea for this project started in 2016 from North Minneapolis community members who strongly believe that institutional economic power is the critical ingredient to addressing the inequities that African-Americans experience in our region. "In addition to offering an array of financial products and services, the credit union will be a tremendous source of pride for the local community and beyond", stated Valerie Geather, ABEP Chair. With support from the community, Village Financial Credit Union will provide services that address the needs of the unbanked, underbanked, and general community through a financial cooperative committed to economic development of the underserved.

Today, there are more than 250 Black-led credit unions managing \$7.5 billion in assets. Village Financial will be the first Black-led community credit union in Minnesota. To learn more about this project, visit <https://abepmpls.org/> or contact ABEP Executive Director, Debra Hurston.



6465 Wayzata Blvd. #800 | Minneapolis, MN 55425 | (952) 935-2000

[www.versique.com](http://www.versique.com)



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[Versique](#) is a high-performance recruiting firm that specializes in interim solutions, direct hire, and executive leadership search. Our team of experienced professionals and seasoned leaders across various areas of expertise and industries have been in your shoes. We quickly assess your whole people picture and identify key elements that will take your business to the next level. Learn more at [versique.com](https://versique.com).

The Association for Black Economic Power (ABEP) is a nonprofit organization created to establish a Black-led financial institution to address systemic financial challenges impacting Minneapolis residents, particularly people of color. This vision was birthed from North Minneapolis community members who strongly believe that institutional economic power is the critical ingredient to addressing the inequities blacks experience in Minnesota. Additionally, as a community development organization, ABEP seeks to positively impact the underserved communities it serves from the standpoint of affordable housing, workforce development and small business acceleration opportunities. Learn more at: <https://abepmpls.org/>



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