



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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TO: Felicia Brabec, Chair
Ways and Means Committee

THROUGH: Verna J. McDaniel
County Administrator

FROM: Mary Jo Callan, Director
Office of Community & Economic Development

DATE: September 4, 2013

SUBJECT: Dislocated Worker Training (DWT) National Emergency Grant
(NEG)

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Board of Commissioners ratify the signature of the Chair of the Board on the Dislocated Worker Training (DWT) National Emergency Grant (NEG) award from the Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan (WDASOM) for the period of July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$88,263.

BACKGROUND:

As the local Michigan Works! Agency (MWA), OCED is the administrator and operator of workforce programs in Washtenaw County. Such programs are funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) and the Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan (WDASOM).

The WIA was mandated on August 7, 1998, and provides the framework for a unique national workforce preparation and employment system designed to meet both the needs of businesses and the needs of job seekers and those who want to further their careers. Washtenaw County has received WIA funding for 15 years, since it was mandated in 1998. The Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board (WDB) and the Board of Commissioners (BOC) oversee, recommend and approve workforce development programs throughout Washtenaw County.

The WIA intends to create a customer-focused system to help individuals access the tools they need to manage their careers through information and high quality services and help companies find skilled workers. It is the main funding source that operates the Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Service Center where workforce services are delivered, which is currently located at 304 Harriet Street in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

National Emergency Grants (NEGs) are discretionary grants awarded by the Secretary of Labor (the Secretary) under Section 173 of the WIA, as amended. NEGs are intended to temporarily expand service capacity at the State and local levels by providing time-limited funding in response to significant dislocation events. Significant events include plant closures and mass layoffs, as well as other events recognized by the Secretary under 20 CFR 671.11. The Secretary has used this authority to provide assistance in response to significant nationwide events affecting the U.S. workforce. Significant events are those that create a sudden need for assistance that cannot be accommodated within the ongoing operations of the WIA DW program, including Statewide Activities and Rapid Response funds reserved at the state level.

Widespread smaller layoff events across the country, combined with the high numbers of long-term unemployed, have had a significant impact on the workforce investment system's ability to provide crucial training services to improve DW's employment prospects. The Secretary has recognized the impact of these smaller layoffs across the nation as a significant dislocation event for purposes of one-time NEG assistance.

The Workforce Development Agency (WDA) was awarded DWT NEG funds specifically for the purpose of providing training services to Dislocated Workers (DWs), including those who are long-term unemployed and the recipients of Unemployment Insurance (UI) that have been profiled as likely to exhaust their benefits. The opportunity to participate in training, and acquire an industry-recognized credential that enables them to obtain self-sufficient employment, is a priority of this initiative. Each MWA had the opportunity to submit a request to the WDA for DWT NEG funds prior to the USDOL funding award. Funding has been allocated to all MWAs who submitted a request to the WDA. The amount of funding requested exceeded the award to the State and was distributed based on the PY 2013 DW formula or amount of NEG funding requested by the MWA, whichever was the lesser of the two.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the DWT NEG is to increase the workforce investment system's capacity to provide critical training services that lead to employment. Other intensive and supportive services, including needs-related payments (NRPs), needed by the DWT NEG participants must be provided through co-enrollment in the WIA DW program. Permissible activities under these awards will be limited to training, including work-based learning, other (defined below), and administration.

Eligibility

Eligible Dislocated Workers (DWs) have been identified for participation with a priority given to the long-term unemployed and to those who have been profiled as likely to exhaust Unemployment Insurance (UI). Long-term unemployed for the purposes of this NEG project are those who have been unemployed for 27 weeks

or more since January 1, 2008. Weeks of unemployment do not need to be consecutive, nor does the eligible participant have to have received/exhausted UI benefits. Specific eligibility requirements are described in WIA and WDASOM policies. Referral to training and the use of on-the-job training and customized training becomes very important for workforce development strategies in the Washtenaw County area to improve the skills gaps of current job seekers.

Use of Funds

Administration: Up to 8% of the award may be used to cover administrative costs associated with operating the DWT NEG at the local level.

Other: Up to 10% of the award may be used to cover program costs that are not directly related to the provision of training, including but not limited to: outreach to employers to develop work-based learning opportunities, monitoring contracts and assisting participants with enrollment.

Work-Based Learning: Between 25% and 60% of the award must be utilized for work-based learning, such as On-the-Job Training (OJT), Registered Apprenticeship or customized training. OJT opportunities and customized training must be provided under a contract with an employer in the private-nonprofit or private sector. Such training should have a linkage to employment, such as, internships or work experience, where feasible. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Contracts for “class-size training” with an institution of higher education, or other eligible training providers, if the local project operator determines that it would facilitate the training of multiple individuals in high-demand occupations.
- The provision of remedial training as necessary for, and connected to, the attainment of an advanced credential.

MWAs must coordinate training with other WIA activities to provide participants with the reemployment services that are necessary components of job readiness, including, but not limited to, job search assistance, resume writing, mock interviews, and other support necessary to help training participants obtain employment. These services are provided at the Michigan Works! Service Center through WIA formula funding, which is described in Resolution Number 13-0124 and was passed by the Board of Commissioners (BOC) on 08/07/13.

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:

None

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

The requested Board action approves the DWT NEG budget, in the amount of \$88,263, in federal revenue. No County match is required for this grant.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:

None

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

The requested Board action has no impact on other County departments or outside agencies.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:

The requested Board action is in conformity with County policies.

ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES:

- DWT – NEG Approval Request
- Resolution
- Budget

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE SIGNATURE OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD ON THE DISLOCATED WORKER TRAINING (DWT) NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT (NEG) AWARD FROM THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, STATE OF MICHIGAN (WDASOM) FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2013, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$88,263.

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 18, 2013

WHEREAS, OCED has received Dislocated Worker Training (DWT) National Emergency Grant (NEG) funding from the Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan (WDASOM) for the period of July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$88,263; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County MWA is funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), and the WDASOM, to provide employment training and placement services; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County MWA is operated under the direction of the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED); and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Development Agency (WDA) was awarded DWT NEG funds specifically for the purpose of providing training services to eligible Dislocated Workers (DWs); and

WHEREAS, eligible DWs have been identified for participation with a priority given to the long-term unemployed and to those who have been profiled as likely to exhaust Unemployment Insurance (UI); and

WHEREAS, long-term unemployed for the purposes of this NEG project are those who have been unemployed for 27 weeks or more since January 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Workforce development services are delivered at the Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Service Center, located at 304 Harriet Street Ypsilanti; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by the Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board (WDB), Corporation's Counsel, the Finance Department, Human Resources, the County Administrator's Office, and the Ways and Means Committee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the signature of the Chair of the Board on the Dislocated Worker Training (DWT) National Emergency Grant (NEG) award from the Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan (WDASOM) for the period of July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$88,263, as on file with the County Clerk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners takes the following actions contingent upon receipt of the grant award in conformity with the application:

1. Authorizing the County Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award;
2. Amending the budget as attached hereto and made a part hereof;
3. Authorizing the County Administrator to sign delegate contracts upon review and approval of Corporation Counsel, to be filed with the County Clerk.

Office of Community & Economic Development
Dislocated Worker Training – National Emergency Grant
Fund #: 2350
Business Unit: 2350139150
07/01/13 – 06/30/15

		<u>Original</u>	<u>Revised</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenues				
<u>50000</u>	<u>Federal Revenue</u>	\$ -	\$ 88,263	\$ 88,263
Total Revenue		\$ -	\$ 88,263	\$ 88,263
 Expenditures				
<u>80000</u>	<u>Other Services and Charges</u>	\$ -	\$ 88,263	\$ 88,263
Total Expenditure		\$ -	\$ 88,263	\$ 88,263