



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: Approval of OCED Annual Entitlement Grant Funding

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners authorize the signature of the Chair of the Board or the County Administrator on all formula and entitlement grants awarded to the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED), estimated to total \$8.8M, and authorize the County Administrator to sign delegate contracts. Acceptance of all grants with a fiscal year beginning in 2014, and that meet the criteria outlined below, shall be considered approved.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Community and Economic Development currently receives nearly thirty different formula grants from the state and federal governments. These grants are not competitive in nature, but rather are awarded on a reoccurring basis based on pre-existing state or federal allocation formulas. If the County were to elect not to receive the funds, the granting agency would rescind the award and re-allocate the money elsewhere in the country, as the terms and amounts of awards such as these are not open to negotiation.

The County has administered many of these grants for over 20 years, and the receipt of formula grants does not obligate Washtenaw County general funds in excess of the OCED appropriation that is authorized by the Board of Commissioners within the budget. Nonetheless, each of the grants has historically been taken to the BOC for approval as a separate item on the Board agenda. This approach ends up consuming a significant portion of Board and staff time throughout a given year, as formula grants are on a variety of different fiscal years, and are awarded at several different points throughout the year. Furthermore, the piecemeal nature of the resolutions does not

provide a holistic overview of the continuum of services provided to the community by OCED.

Given the formulaic nature of the grants, the County's long history with these programs, and the opportunity to gain a more contextualized and holistic understanding of the impact achieved through investing these funds in the community, OCED is requesting that the Board approve the receipt and management of formula grants in one resolution annually.

DISCUSSION:

OCED is requesting that the Board of Commissioners approve the receipt of all formula grants received by the department which have a fiscal year beginning in 2014. OCED estimates that \$8.8M in state and federal grant funds will be received over the course of the year. This resolution does not constitute approval of awards with the following characteristics:

- The award is competitive in nature
- The award amount is not based on pre-established federal or state funding formulas or entitlement formulas
- The award is new, and has not been awarded to or administered by OCED in the past
- Receipt of the award would necessitate a county general fund appropriation in excess of the amount approved by the BOC in the budget
- Receipt of the award would necessitate a change in OCED position control
- Receipt of award is more than \$100K or 10% more than the anticipated amount, whichever is greater

Any awards meeting the aforementioned criteria would require stand-alone approval by the BOC.

Approval of this resolution also requires OCED to present the Board with quarterly updates (two of which will include verbal reports) on the status and community impacts of grants awarded to the department throughout the year. This will allow for streamlining of the approval process while still ensuring that the Board is up to date on the status of state and federal awards made to OCED.

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:

None

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

This resolution would authorize the receipt and expenditure of an estimated \$8.8M in state and federal grant funds. No county general fund dollars beyond the appropriation to OCED in the budget would be made.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COST

Indirect costs of \$636,085 are included as a part of this resolution.

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

OCED works with several partners in the community to administer and execute these grants. These grant funds leverage more than \$17M in outside revenue for the county.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:

The Resolution conforms to county policies.

ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES:

List of formula grants, descriptions, and estimated award amounts.
Proposed Resolution

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ALL FORMULA GRANTS RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH A FISCAL YEAR STARTING DURING THE 2014 CALENDAR YEAR

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 18, 2013

WHEREAS, every year, the Office of Community and Economic Development receives as many as forty different formula grants from the state and federal government; and

WHEREAS, historically, each of these grants has been taken to the BOC for individual approval, which consumes a significant portion of the Board's agenda every year; and

WHEREAS, the County strives to improve efficiency by streamlining processes where appropriate and has chosen to accept an annual OCED formula grants in a single resolution; and

WHEREAS, this resolution does not constitute approval of any award that is competitive in nature, that is not based pre-established federal or state funding formulas, that would necessitate a County general fund appropriation in excess of the amount approved by the BOC in adopted budget, or that would impact human resources; and

WHEREAS; OCED will provide quarterly updates (two of which will include verbal reports) on the status and community impacts of grants awarded to the department throughout the year; and

WHEREAS this matter has been reviewed by the County Administrator's Office and the Corporation Counsel; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approves the receipt of all formula grants awarded to OCED with a fiscal year starting during the 2014 calendar year, and authorizes the Chair of the Board of Commissioners or the County Administrator to sign said grant agreements and the County Administrator to sign delegate contracts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Community and Economic Development shall submit a resolution for all entitlement grant funding on an annual basis, in addition to Approval of this resolution also requires OCED to present the Board with quarterly updates (two of which will include verbal reports) on the status and community impacts of grants awarded to the department throughout the year.

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

1. Authorizing the County Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award;

2. Amending the budget;
3. Authorizing the County Administrator to sign delegate contracts upon review and approval of Corporation Counsel, to be filed with the County Clerk.