



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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TO: Al Robinson, Chair
Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Trenda Rusher, Executive Director
Employment Training and Community Services

DATE: April 21, 1999

SUBJECT: 1999 Employment Services Plan

Board Action Requested:

The Employment Training/Community Services Group is requesting the ratification of the Chair of the Board's signature on the 1999 Employment Services Plan application for the period of July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000; approval of the Employment Services budget in the amount of \$359,964; and authorization for the County Administrator to sign the delegate contracts.

Background:

By Governor Engler's Executive Order 1997-12, dated August 6, 1997, the Michigan Employment Security Agency (MESA, formerly known as MESC) began a massive reorganization. Michigan's new Employment Services will serve employers and job seekers under State direction, through grants to local Michigan Works Agencies, administered locally by the Washtenaw County Workforce Development

Board.

The Michigan Jobs Commission, in response to the Plante & Moran findings, reorganized the Michigan Employment Security Agency by splitting the services once provided by MESA into two entities: the Unemployment Agency and the Employment Services Agency. The Unemployment Agency will be responsible for the Unemployment Insurance Program and located in the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services. The Employment Services Agency will be responsible for the Employment Services and Labor Market Information Programs and located in the Michigan Jobs Commission.

Labor Market Information and related functions have been transferred to the Michigan Jobs Commission. While the MJC will provide central administrative and policy/staff service, employment service field operations will be decentralized and integrated via the local Workforce Development Boards and their One-Stop Centers. Based on local 1996 year end data, approximately 11,000 customers may be served under the system in Washtenaw County.

The 1998 Employment Services plan budget was \$551,374. For the 1998 program year through March 31, 1999, there have been 15,849 job seekers and 4,080 employers served. There were 9,405 visits by job seekers and 6,444 phone calls. And 319 visits by employers and 3,761 phone calls.

Discussion:

The Federal Wagner-Peyser Act established the United States Employment Services which provided a nationwide labor exchange system and created State Employment Security Agencies to administer these services in each state.

Funding to local Workforce Development Boards is now being provided to support the provision of local Employment Services and to implement America's Talent Bank/Job Bank. A new electronic Talent Bank system has connected job seekers with employer job openings. The new system is self-service and is Internet-based.

The new system has two options to assist employers in recruiting workers:

- JOB BANK will allow employers to use their own computers with Internet access to post job openings on a data base which will be searched by job seekers.
- TALENT BANK will allow employers to search for resumes posted by job seekers whose qualifications match their needs.

The purpose of this transition of Employment Services delivery is based on the recent Plante and Moran study. The Michigan Jobs Commission utilized the Plante & Moran Group to evaluate the options available to the Michigan Employment Security Agency in accelerating customer service improvements, better integrate its programs within Michigan's workforce development system, and meet federal mandates. Plante & Moran recommended the following two (2) changes:

1) Unemployment Insurance Performance Improvements:

- a. Focused attention to accelerate improvements and meet Federal performance standards
- b. Added staff resources

2) Employment Services

- a. Take different approach to labor exchange
- b. Improvements to customer satisfaction and number of job seekers and employers involved in labor exchange system
- c. Need to overcome barriers of a labor and time-intensive occupational code-based matching and referral system; steady decline in Wagner-Peyser funding; and separation between labor exchange, job training, and supportive services

Impact on Human Resources:

The requested Board action has no impact on Washtenaw County positions, personnel policies or procedures.

Impact on Budget:

- The requested Board action will approve the EMPLOYMENT TRAINING/COMMUNITY SERVICES Group's Employment Services budget. There are no County funds nor match required for this program. There are \$53,995 in administration funds.

The contractor for this program is *Work Skills*.

Impact on Indirect Costs:

There are no indirect costs associated with this budget.

Impact on other County Departments or Outside Agencies:

The requested Board action has no impact on other County departments or outside agencies. The County's Information and Technology Services Department has coordinated and assisted Employment Training/Community Services Group with the initial set-up and planning of this project.

Conformity to County policies:

This matter has been reviewed by the Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board, the County Administrator's Office, Corporation Counsel, Finance, Human Resources, and the Ways and Means Committee. The requested Board action is in conformity with County policies.

Attachments/Appendices:

1999 ES Plan

1999 ES Budget

Prepared by:

Trenda Rusher, Executive Director

Employment Training and Community Services Group

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE SIGNATURE OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD ON THE 1999 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PLAN APPLICATION TO THE MICHIGAN JOBS COMMISSION, FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 1998 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000; IN THE AMOUNT OF \$359,964 FOR THE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING/COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUP; AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD; AMENDING THE BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE DELEGATE CONTRACTS.

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 5, 1999

WHEREAS, by Executive Order 1997-12, dated August 6, 1997, the Michigan Employment Security Agency, Employment Service, Labor Market Information and related functions were reorganized; and

WHEREAS, while the MJC will continue to provide central administrative and policy staff, most employment service field operations have been decentralized and integrated with the Workforce Development Boards; and

WHEREAS, the Employment Training/Community Services Group will serve employers and job seekers under State direction, through grants to local Michigan Works Agencies, administered locally by the Washtenaw County Workforce Development, and

WHEREAS, the Employment Training/Community Services Group is required to submit an application to the Michigan Jobs Commission for the 1999 Employment Services plan funds, and

WHEREAS, there are \$53,995 in administrative funds under this plan; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 11,000 customers may be served; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by the Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board, Corporation Counsel, Finance, 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 the 1999 Employment Services plan application to the Michigan Jobs Commission, in the amount of \$359,964 for the period of July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2000 for the Employment Training/Community Services Group, 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. Authorize the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award
2. Amending the budget, as attached hereto and made a part hereof
3. Authorizing the Administrator to sign the delegate contracts upon review by Corporation Counsel, to be filed with the County Clerk.

Washtenaw County ETCS		
Summary Budget		
Fund #2490 - Employment Service		
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2000		
Revenues		
50000	Federal Revenue	\$ 359,964

Expenditures

80000	Other Services and Charges	\$ 359,964
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[Return to the Board of Commissioners Ways and Means Committee April 21, 1999 Agenda Page](#)