



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
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TO: Jeff Irwin  
Chair, Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel  
County Administrator

FROM: Trenda Rusher  
Director, ETCS

DATE: April 5, 2006

SUBJECT: ETCS Workforce Investment Act Statewide Activities MiRSA  
Southeast Michigan Hospitality and Tourism Grant Agreement

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

It is requested that the Board of Commissioners authorize the County Administrator's signature on the Workforce Investment Act Statewide Activities MiRSA– Southeast Michigan Hospitality and Tourism Grant Agreement received from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth in the amount of \$20,000 for the period of April 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006. It is further requested that the Board of Commissioners amends the budget and authorizes the County Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award and delegate contracts.

**BACKGROUND:**

The State of Michigan is promoting the formation of "MiRSAs" (Michigan Regional Skills Alliances) to help business and workers in Michigan improve their competitiveness and economic security.

RSAs are partnerships formed to address workforce challenges such as worker shortages, skill shortages, training mismatches, employee recruitment and retention, and organizational design within a specific geographic area and industry.

- RSAs seek to resolve systemic and structural problems by working at a multi-firm, industry-based level.
- RSAs are regional in nature and reflect the local labor market. Participating firms draw on a regional labor pool of people who live and work in the region.
- RSAs engage relevant public and private stakeholders in collaborative problem-solving.
- RSA stakeholders are brought together by a convenor, an organization with expertise in the industry and credibility among partner entities.

- While RSAs deal with workforce issues at all levels, many have an emphasis on workers or potential workers at the lower wage end of the industry and work to improve opportunities in those jobs as well as in jobs at higher levels in the career ladder.
- Sectors in which RSAs are formed are a significant part of the local economy, but they need not be the principal industry of the area.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG) has identified the Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Agency (ETCS) to serve as the applicant, convener and fiscal agent for the Southeast Michigan Hospitality and Tourism RSA. MDLEG has earmarked \$20,000 to be used for planning purposes. MDLEG staff was duly impressed with the training, partnership and efforts demonstrated by the work exhibited through the work of the Southeast Michigan Works Agencies (better known as SEMWAC) during the Super Bowl XL activities preparation. The feedback from area hoteliers, restaurants, transportation companies, and the area Convention and Visitor Bureaus was tremendous.

This planning grant will assist with the hiring of a program manager/consultant and marketing and specialty consultant to work with community-based organizations and private sector businesses to plan and build a mechanism to address and support the workforce needs in the hospitality and tourism sector throughout the following counties: Livingston, Wayne, Macomb/St. Clair, Oakland, Genesee/Shiawassee and Washtenaw. Hiring will be a joint process through the RSA.

The Southeast Michigan Hospitality and Tourism RSA partners include the following workforce industry leaders: Dick Blouse, President & CEO, Detroit, Regional Chamber of Commerce; James E. King, Pres/CEO JEKG; John Almstadt, Director, Oakland County MWA; John Bierbusse, Macomb/St. Clair, MWA; Pam Loving, Pres/CEO, Career Alliance; Larry Whitworth, Pres, WCC; Cylenthia LaToye Obayan, Director, Detroit, MWA; William Sleight, Director, Livingston County, MWA; Mary Kerr, President/CEO Ann Arbor CVB; Barbara Clark, VP, Economic & Workforce Development, MCC; Victor Martin, President, Best Westin; Trenda Rusher, Director, Washtenaw County, MWA; Larry Alexander, Pres/CEO, Detroit CVB. The list is growing, and the following businesses will be joining the Southeast Hospitality RSA in the near future for training and hiring purposes: Greektown Casino, Motor City Casino, and MGM Casino.

**IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:**

None

**IMPACT ON BUDGET:**

The requested Board action approves the ETCS Workforce Investment Act Statewide Activities MiRSA– Southeast Michigan Hospitality and Tourism Grant Agreement budget in the amount of \$20,000.

**IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:**

None

**IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:**

None

**CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:**

The requested Board action conforms with County policies.

**ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES:**

WIA Statewide – Southeast Michigan Hospitality and Tourism Regional Skills Alliance Agreement and Budget

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE ETCS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM GRANT AGREEMENT FROM THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000, FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2006 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2006; APPROVING THE BUDGET; AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN DELEGATE CONTRACTS

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 5, 2006

WHEREAS, ETCS serves employers and job seekers under State direction, through grants to local Michigan Works! Agencies, administered locally by the Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG) has identified \$20,000 in Workforce Investment Act statewide activities funding to be used as a planning grant for the Southeast Michigan Hospitality and Tourism Regional Skills Alliance; and

WHEREAS, this program will help businesses and workers in Michigan improve their competitiveness and economic security; and

WHEREAS, MDLEG staff was duly impressed with the training, partnership and efforts demonstrated by the work exhibited through the work of the Southeast Michigan Works Agencies (better known as SEMWAC) during the Super Bowl XL activities preparation including Super City Ann Arbor; and

WHEREAS, the feedback from area hoteliers, restaurants, transportation companies, and the area Convention and Visitor Bureaus was tremendous; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth has identified the Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Agency (ETCS) to serve as the applicant, convener and fiscal agent for the Southeast Michigan Hospitality and Tourism RSA; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Administrator to sign the Workforce Investment Act Statewide Activities MiRSA– Southeast Michigan Hospitality and Tourism Grant Agreement received from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth in the amount of \$20,000, for the period of April 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners takes the following action contingent upon receipt of the grant award in conformity with the program 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 the delegate contracts upon review of Corporation Counsel, to be filed with the County Clerk.

Washtenaw County ETCS  
Fund #2320 - WIA Statewide - Regional Skills Alliance  
4/1/06 to 6/30/06

**Revenues**

50000

Federal Revenue

\$ 20,000

**Expenditures**

80000

Other Services & Charges

\$ 20,000