

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

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel  
County Administrator

FROM: Trena Rusher, Director  
Employment Training & Community Services

DATE: August 2, 2006

SUBJECT: Creating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce: Developing Coordinated  
Regional Strategies Initiative

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

ETCS is requesting acceptance of the ETCS Creating a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce: Developing and Implementing Collaborative Regional Strategies Initiative funding from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG) in the amount of \$50,000 for the period of August 1, 2006 through October 31, 2006.

**BACKGROUND:**

The State of Michigan is seeking a collaborative partnership with local workforce boards to meet the challenges that Michigan is facing. The purpose of this effort is to work with Michigan Works! Agencies (of which ETCS is one) in providing regional leadership in the development and/or strengthening of regional strategies to address both immediate and longer-term workforce needs of employers.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Michigan Works! Agencies will have the responsibility to convene regional partners and facilitate the regional planning process. This will include developing and planning the implementation for comprehensive regional strategies that:

- Create a unified approach to working with employers
- Assess the local workforce and economy
- Develop a coordinated, regionally-led rapid response process to address plant closings and mass lay-offs
- Incorporate a lay-off aversion component with the intent of minimizing plant closings and lay-offs
- Focus on developing, attracting, and retaining talent to build and support the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy

- Develop and implement a communications strategy targeted at partners, employers, and the general public

Locally, the Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Agency (MWA) and its Workforce Development Board (WDB) will serve as its own region for the purpose of this grant due to the existence of a new countywide partnership, MEGA-P.

The focus is to align existing regional efforts into a coordinated regional strategy. ETCS will retain a consultant to facilitate this process and will align work with the other Southeastern Michigan Works! Agencies Consortium (SEMWAC) areas. The role of the facilitator will be to provide project management support and assistance in the development and execution of a communications strategy for this two-pronged approach.

Washtenaw County is fortunate to have the state's lowest unemployment rate and a growing economy. A large portion of the state's Life Science community as well as significant new advance manufacturing research and development facilities are located in the county. The MWA and its WDB spearheaded the creation of a countywide partnership, Mega-Partnership (MEGA-P), which brings together local partners. The partnership agreement has been signed by:

- Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce
- Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce
- Ann Arbor SPARK
- Eastern Michigan University
- Washtenaw Community College
- Washtenaw County Government – Michigan Works!

MEGA-P was modeled after the Compact/SOLUTIONS developed by the Michigan Council for Labor and Economic Growth's (CLEG) Accelerating Re-employment Committee. This MEGA-P Agreement was established to focus on workforce and economic development issues that are critical to the mission of all partners and the citizens of Washtenaw County.

**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 approves the ETCS Creating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce: Developing Coordinated Regional Strategies Initiative budget in the amount of \$50,000.

**IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:**

The requested board action has 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.

**CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:**

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

**ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES:**

Creating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce: Developing Coordinated Regional Strategies Initiative Narrative

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY WORKFORCE: DEVELOPING COORDINATED REGIONAL STRATEGIES INITIATIVE FUNDING FROM THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000, FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2006 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2006 FOR THE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUP; APPROVING THE BUDGET; AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN DELEGATE CONTRACTS

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 2, 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, ETCS has received notice that it will receive \$50,000 in funding from the Michigan Department of Labor (MDLEG) for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce: Developing Coordinated Regional Strategies Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this funding is to enable the Michigan Works! Agencies (of which ETCS is one) to provide regional leadership in the development and/or strengthening of regional strategies to address both immediate and longer-term workforce needs of employers; and

WHEREAS, MDLEG staff has identified the Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Agency (MWA) and its Workforce Development Board (WDB) to serve as its own region for the purpose of this grant due to the existence of a new countywide partnership, MEGA-P; and

WHEREAS, the MEGA-P Agreement was established to focus on workforce and economic development issues that are critical to the mission of all partners and the citizens of Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, ETCS through the MEGA-P will have the responsibility to convene regional partners and facilitate the regional planning process; 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 accepts the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce: Developing Coordinated Regional Strategies Initiative funding from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth in the amount of \$50,000, for the period of August 1, 2006 through October 31, 2006 for the Employment Training and 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:

1. Approving the budget as attached hereto and made a part hereof
2. Authorizing the County Administrator to sign the delegate contract upon review by Corporation Counsel, to be filed with the County Clerk

Washtenaw County ETCS  
WIA 21st Century Workforce  
8/1/06 - 10/31/06  
2350069110

		Current	Revised	Variance
<b>Revenues</b>				
50000	Federal Revenue	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>Expenditures</b>				
80000	Other Services & Charges	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000