

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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TO: Barbara Levin Bergman, Chair

Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel

County Administrator

FROM: Trenda Rusher, Director

ETCS

DATE: February 6, 2008

SUBJECT: No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Statewide

Activities Funding

Board Action Requested:

It is requested that the Board of Commissioners ratify the signature of the Chair of the Board on the ETCS plan application to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth for the No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Statewide Activities Funding for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 in the amount of \$59,047.

Background:

Governor Granholm announced the No Worker Left Behind (NLWB) initiative on August 1, 2007; an ambitious plan to train 100,000 citizens in three (3) years for jobs in high demand occupations and emerging industries or entrepreneurial endeavors. The NWLB initiative gives Michigan workers the opportunity to acquire the skills they need to win good-paying jobs in today's global economy. By reorganizing and augmenting federal funds currently used for workforce development, NWLB will provide \$5,000 per year for up to two (2) years of free tuition per participant (for a total of \$10,000 of free tuition) at any Michigan community college, university, or other approved training program for qualifying participants.

The Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG), the state department that is charged with overseeing the NWLB program, has increased the amount of funding for this type of award by dedicating all available resources to training. Enabling workers to acquire the skills necessary to succeed in the fast-changing global economy of the 21st Century is the foundation for the Governor's NWLB initiative. Having an adaptive, highly skilled workforce is central to Michigan's strategy for economic transformation.

The NWLB initiative aligns all federal workforce dollars used for worker training into a unified workforce development strategy. The federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is the primary funding source for the NWLB program. 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.

To this end, the Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG)/BWP has specifically identified \$3,640,560 in combined Program Year (PY) 2006 and 2007 WIA Statewide Activities funding to assist the NWLB program.

Discussion:

ETCS is the administrator and operator of employment and training programs in Washtenaw County. It is funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG) to provide employment training and placement services. The Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board (WDB) and the Board of Commissioners (BOC) oversee, recommend and approve employment and training programs throughout Washtenaw County. ETCS is also referred to as the local Michigan Works! Agency (MWA).

This is the first year of NWLB WIA Statewide Activities funding. These funds will be used to provide allowable WIA activities to NWLB program participants. This includes tuition of up to \$5,000 per year for up to two (2) years of free tuition per participant (for a total of \$10,000 of free tuition) at any Michigan community college, university, or other approved training program for qualifying participants. With the Program Year (PY) 2007 NWLB WIA Statewide Activities funding, the Washtenaw County MWA/ETCS plans to serve approximately ten (10) eligible individuals.

To qualify for the NWLB program, workers must:

- Take a skills assessment test, which will be administered by the local Michigan Works!
 Agency (MWA/ETCS); and
- Pursue a degree or other occupational certificate in a high-demand occupation, emerging industry, or in an entrepreneurship program. Although there is flexibility to account for individual worker's needs and interests, the emphasis is on connecting workers to education and training programs that will lead to a certificate or degree of value and a job in a growing sector of the economy.

The NWLB tuition program is a one-time offer. Eligible participants have three (3) years to register once the program is implemented (August 1, 2007).

Eligibility

The following Michigan residents are eligible for NWLB tuition assistance:

- Any individual who is currently unemployed, regardless if the individual qualifies for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Individuals who accepted a buy-out are eligible for the program regardless of their UI status. The Michigan Works! Agency (MWA) will assist these individuals with the utilization of any available buy-out funding for training before expending other sources of funding for training; or
- Any person who has received a notice of termination or layoff from employment; or
- Any employed person whose family income is \$40,000 or less.

Dependents, age 18 - 23, must include their parent's income in determining family income regardless if they live with their parents or not.

Young People (Ages 18-23)

- o Must be at least 18 years old,
- o Must not have graduated from high school in the last two years, and

o Must not be a full-time college student.

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 ETCS Program Year (PY) 2007 No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Statewide Activities funding budget, in the amount of \$59,047. There are no County funds, nor match required for this program.

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.

Conformity to County Policies:

The requested Board action is in conformity with County policies.

Attachments:

PY 2007 NWLB WIA Statewide Activities Funding Plan PY 2007 NWLB WIA Statewide Activities Funding Budget A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD'S SIGNATURE ON THE PROGRAM YEAR (PY) 2007 NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND (NWLB) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES FUNDING PLAN APPLICATION TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC GROWTH (MDLEG) FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2007 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$59,047 FOR THE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (ETCS) DEPARTMENT; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY 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

February 20, 2008

WHEREAS, ETCS is the administrator and operator of employment training programs in Washtenaw County and it is funded by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, the Department of Labor, and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth to provide employment training and placements services; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board and the Board of Commissioners oversee, recommend, and approve employment and training programs throughout Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, enabling workers to acquire the skills necessary to succeed in today's 21st Century knowledge economy is central to Michigan's strategy for economic transformation and is the foundation for the Governor's No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) initiative,

WHEREAS, the NWLB initiative aligns all federal workforce dollars used for worker training into a unified workforce development strategy,

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth (MDLEG)/Bureau of Workforce Programs (BWP) has specifically identified \$3,640,560 in combined Program Year (PY) 2006 and 2007 WIA Statewide Activities funding to assist the NWLB program,

WHEREAS, ETCS is required to submit an application to the MDLEG for the PY 2007 NWLB WIA Statewide Activities funds, and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that approximately ten (10) eligible participants will be served through this program; 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 Chair of the Board's signature on the ETCS Program Year (PY) 2007 No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) Workforce investment Act (WIA) Statewide Activities Funding plan application to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG) for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 in the amount of \$59,047, 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:

- Authorize the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award
- 2. Approve 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 No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Statewide Activities Period of 07/01/07 – 06/30/08

Business Unit: 2320079160

Revenues 50000	Federal Revenue	Original Budget \$0	Revised Budget \$59,047	Variance \$59,047
Expenditures 80000	Other Services and Charges	Original Budget \$0	Revised Budget \$59,047	Variance \$59,047