



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
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TO: Conan Smith, Chair  
Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel  
County Administrator

FROM: Trenda Rusher, Director  
ETCS

DATE: February 18, 2009

SUBJECT: Workforce Investment Act (WIA) National Emergency Grant (NEG)

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

It is requested that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners ratify the signature of the Chair of the Board on the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) National Emergency Grant (NEG) project plan in the amount of \$138,606 for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was mandated on August 7, 1998. It provides the framework for a unique national workforce preparation and employment system designed to meet the needs of businesses, job seekers and those who want to further their careers. This provides the background for Governor Granholm's No Worker Left Behind Initiative, which aligns all federal workforce dollars used for worker training into a unified workforce development strategy. NWLB gives Michigan workers the opportunity to acquire the skills they need to win good-paying jobs in today's global economy. Having an adaptive, highly skilled workforce is central to Michigan's strategy for economic transformation. The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG) is the state department that is charged with overseeing NWLB.

ETCS is the administrator and operator of workforce development 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 workforce development programs throughout Washtenaw County. ETCS is also referred to as the local Michigan Works! Agency (MWA).

**DISCUSSION:**

Enabling workers to acquire the skills necessary to succeed in today's 21<sup>st</sup> Century knowledge-based economy is central to Michigan's strategy for economic transformation and is the foundation for the Governor's No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) initiative. The NWLB initiative aligns all federal workforce dollars used for worker training into a unified workforce development strategy. To this end, Michigan requested of the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) and received, a National Emergency Grant (NEG) in the amount up to \$6.6 million, which

includes an original release of funding of \$2,475,000. The NEG awarded to Michigan is to provide workers dislocated as a result of statewide layoffs in the automotive industry a full array of dislocated worker services that may include skills assessment, individual career counseling, career and occupational skills training.

The Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Agency (MWA)/ETCS has a major and proactive role in assisting workers in the case of layoff or a plant shutdown. The MWA will work with its local service provider and the Rapid Response Section (RRS) within the Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG)/Bureau of Workforce Programs (BWP) to deliver quality services in response to a Worker Adjustment Retraining Notification (WARN) notice.

In the case of mass layoff or plant closing the MWA will go on-site and provide worker orientation covering the services available to workers. Once the workers access the system, service provider staff will assess individual skills experience and together with the customer develop an Individual Service Strategy (ISS) to chart out a plan of action for employment or retraining opportunities.

The group to be targeted will be those that are unlikely to return to their previous occupation due to a decline in their specific occupation/industry. Targeted participants will be those individuals who are dislocated from the auto industry and individuals whose communities have been impacted by the restructuring of the auto industry. The project service design will be based on placing participants in unsubsidized employment as quickly as possible. To do this, dislocated workers will receive orientation, testing, certification and job seeking skills workshop services as deemed appropriate. Referrals will then be made to the most appropriate program activity: classroom training, customized training or on-the-job training. This effort will seek to solve the crucial dilemma of the dislocated worker, not only by focusing on job placement and/or job matching, but also by emphasizing the need for retraining.

All eligible participants will have access to Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Core, Intensive and Training Services. The major activity each dislocated worker will utilize through the WIA NEG program will be retraining. Due to the changing nature of our economy, it is critical that people train for new skill sets for in-demand jobs.

The Washtenaw County MWA/ETCS anticipates that it will serve approximately twenty-five (25) eligible participants with WIA NEG funds. Participants served through these funds will be educated in all of their options as WIA participants and work individually with staff to address their job search, training and occupational needs.

**IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:**

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

**IMPACT ON BUDGET:**

The requested Board action approves the WIA NEG budget in the amount of \$138,606.

**IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:**

Indirect costs are not eligible for reimbursement under this grant.

**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 has been reviewed by the Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board (WDB), the County Administrator's Office, Corporation Counsel, the Office of Finance, and the Human Resources Department. The action is in conformity with County policies.

**ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES:**

WIA NEG Plan  
WIA NEG Budget

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE SIGNATURE OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD ON THE ETCS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT (NEG) PROJECT PLAN TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH (DELEG) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$138,606 FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2008 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN NOTICE OF GRANT AWARDS; AMENDING THE BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN DELEGATE CONTRACTS.

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 4, 2009

WHEREAS, ETCS submitted a plan to the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth for the WIA National Emergency Grant (NEG) in the amount of \$138,606 for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was implemented in 1998 to address workforce development and employment training to meet the needs of businesses, job seekers and those who want to further their careers; and

WHEREAS, the WIA is the primary funding source for Governor Granholm's No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) initiative announced in August 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; and

WHEREAS, ETCS is the administrator and operator of workforce development programs in Washtenaw County and 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; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board (WDB) and the Board of Commissioners oversee, recommend and approve employment and training programs throughout Washtenaw County delivered by the ETCS, also referred to as the local Michigan Works! Agency (MWA); and

WHEREAS, Michigan requested of the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) and received, a National Emergency Grant (NEG) in the amount up to \$6.6 million, which includes an original release of funding of \$2,475,000; and

WHEREAS, the NEG awarded to Michigan is to provide workers dislocated as a result of statewide layoffs in the automotive industry a full array of dislocated worker services that may include skills assessment, individual career counseling, career and occupational skills training.; and

WHEREAS, targeted participants will be those individuals who are dislocated from the auto industry and individuals whose communities have been impacted by the restructuring of the auto industry; and

WHEREAS, the project service design will be based on placing participants in unsubsidized employment as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, the major activity each dislocated worker will utilize through the program will be retraining focused on high-growth, high-demand occupations; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by the Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board (WDB), Corporation's Counsel, the Finance Department, 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 on the ETCS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) National Emergency Grant (NEG) in the amount of \$138,606 for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, as on file with the County Clerk;

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

Washtenaw County ETCS  
WIA DW National Emergency Grant (NEG)  
Business Unit: 2350089150  
07/01/08 to 06/30/09

		<b>Original</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Revenues</b>				
50100	Federal Revenue	\$ -	\$ 138,606	\$ 138,606
<b>Expenditures</b>				
80001	Other Services and Charges	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 138,606</u>	<u>\$ 138,606</u>