



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request



Requested Meeting Date: March 12, 2024

Title of Item: Award Grant: Business Development & Recreation Grant

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA	Action Requested:	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested
<input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>

Submitted by: Mark Jeffers	Department: Administration
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Presenter (Name and Title): Mark Jeffers, Economic Development Coordinator	Estimated Time Needed: 5 minutes
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Summary of Issue:

The Aitkin County Economic Development Committee has received and reviewed grant funding requests for the Business Development & Recreation Grant Program. Grant applications and grant award summary are included.

The Committee was unanimous on the recommendation. The Committee recommends and requests approval to award the following grant at this time:

Aitkin and McGregor Chamber, Workforce Summit, \$2,000.00

The purpose of this grant fund is to leverage county funds, private funds and volunteer efforts to increase small business development activities in Aitkin County, with an emphasis on increasing sustained tourism and recreation activities. Several organizations may submit a single application or organizations may apply individually. Organizations need only to commit one hundred dollars (\$100) in good faith to ensure commitment to the grant request. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners, have approved funding to be used to directly impact the Community of Aitkin County by executing the Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:

Economic Development requests approval of a motion to award the recommended grant.

Financial Impact:

Is there a cost associated with this request? Yes No

What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$

Is this budgeted? Yes No *Please Explain:*

This funding is budgeted through the ARPA funding.

Business Development and Recreation Grant

Year	#	Facility Name	Project Name	City	\$ requested	\$ Awarded	Informed
2024	1	Long Lake Foundation	Nature Rocks	Palisade	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	Y
	2	Aitkin, McGregor Chamber	Workforce Summit	County	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
	3	Habitat for Humanity	Toolin' Tour	County	\$ 1,200		
	4	Aitkin High School	Career Fair	County	\$ 2,000		
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					\$ 7,200	\$ 4,000	

#2



Application for Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

- Grant requests should be submitted by EMAIL to: mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us, subject line: BD&R2024 or by mail to:
Mark Jeffers
Aitkin County Government Center
307 2nd Street NW, Room 316
Aitkin, MN 56431
- Funding recommendations will be considered at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Aitkin County Economic Development Committee. Application deadline is **May 31, 2024**.
- Committee recommendations will be submitted to the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Project Name: 1st Annual Aitkin County Workforce Summit

Date(s) of Program: March 14th, 2024

Location of Program: Covenant Pines Bible Camp

Organization/Community Name: Growth Innovations

Person in Charge of Project: Stan Gustafson

Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):

316 1st Ave NW #3, Aitkin, MN 56431

Contact Person's Phone #: 218-927-2172

Contact Person's Email: sgustafson@growthiv.org or tjacobs@growthiv.org

Description/focus/purpose of your organization: Growth Innovations is an economic engine for Aitkin County. Access to our resources launches new business in the area as well as expands existing businesses. We partner with businesses to grow our local economy. Our mission is to improve quality of life through job creation, economic diversification, and community development. We pursue access to opportunity.

FUNDING:

Amount requested from Aitkin County \$2,000.00
(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.

Amount of your organization's match \$ 1,300.00

Total projected budget \$ 3,300.00

PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.



This event will be a gathering of industry experts, local businesses and community leaders striving and working together to revolutionize the workforce landscape. This event will be centered on the entire employment cycle from attracting leading talent and refining the hiring strategies to fostering seamless onboarding processes and implementing innovative retention techniques.

What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.

We hope that with the panel discussions & informative sessions and the networking opportunities, attendees may uncover insights to address their workforce challenges, drive growth and cultivate a thriving workforce.

Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.

We feel that our event will draw from a wide range of our local businesses and give them insight on developing long term workforce strategies – to help them hire, train, and retain employees which in turn will make their business more sustainable and hopefully drive growth to their business and our local economy.

List target audience: Aitkin County employers

4. PROJECT BUDGET: in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
Covenant Pines Bible Camp -Venue			1500
Printing			300
Marketing			1000
Keynote			500



TOTALS			3300

Contact Signature:

Name 

Date: 



#3

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APPLICANT INFORMATION

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Project Name: Toolin Tour Ride for Habitat

Date(s) of Program: Sunday, May 19, 2024

Location of Program: Aitkin, Glen, McGregor, Palisade

Organization/Community Name: Aitkin County Habitat for Humanity

Person in Charge of Project: Ann Schwartz

Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):

214 1st Ave NW PO Box 281 Aitkin MN 56431

Contact Person's Phone #: 218.927.5656

Contact Person's Email: aitkinhabitat@gmail.com

Description/focus/purpose of your organization:

Builds and repairs affordable housing in Aitkin County. Serves the community with such projects as community events, youth builds, rain gardens and more.

FUNDING:

Amount requested from Aitkin County \$ 1,200

(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.

Amount of your organization's match \$8,600

Total projected budget \$ \$9,800

PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.

Motorcycle and classic car run from Aitkin to Glen, McGregor and Palisade. Show off beauty of back country of Aitkin County. Many gift certificates from local businesses urge riders to return. Brings in people from a 60-mile radius. Highlights five local venues



What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.

We hope to raise enough to clear \$6,500 to fund a new home and other affordable housing projects in Aitkin County.

Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.

We bring in bikers and drivers from the surrounding area. They are exposed to the scenic nature of the county plus the Ripple Center, Pine Inn in Glen; Mark's Bar, McGregor; Rustic, Palisade and Aitkin American Legion. Gives the venues a customer boost for that day as well as future customers. Gift certificates and prizes promote local businesses for future spending in Aitkin County.

List target audience:

Motorcycle and classic car enthusiasts in Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota. Local citizens who will come along to participate and meet the bikers. Volunteers from various organizations and Habitat for Humanity partner families all from Aitkin County.

4. PROJECT BUDGET: in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
Aitkin County	1200		1200
Cash sponsors	2200		2200
Donations of goods, services	4000		4000
Registration fees and rider donations	2400		2400
TOTALS	\$9,800		\$9,800

Contact Signature:

Name Ann M Schwartz Date: January 22, 2024

#4



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APPLICANT INFORMATION

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Project Name: 2024 Aitkin High School Career Fair

Date(s) of Program: September 26, 2024

Location of Program: Aitkin High School

Organization/Community Name: JET – Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training

Person in Charge of Project: Amanda Voller

Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):

20 Third Street N.E., Aitkin, MN 56431

Contact Person’s Phone #: 218-735-6120

Contact Person’s Email: amanda.voller@nemojt.org

Description/focus/purpose of your organization: Bringing together local employers with our high school youth for them to have hands on experiences with the different trades.

FUNDING:

Amount requested from Aitkin County \$ 2000.00
(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.

Amount of your organization’s match \$ 2000.00

Total projected budget \$ 4000.00(e)

PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.

We are creating an Interactive Career Fair for our youth at the high school, we will have employers/vendors set up throughout the school as well as the parking lot with their equipment so that students can get up close and experience many occupations and trades from excavating, medical, electrical, construction, plumbing and heating, finance, DNR, etc...



What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.

We hope to bring between 30-40 employers/vendors to the Aitkin High school and they must have hands on experiences that our local Aitkin County youth can try. We want to give our youth the opportunity to try their hand at different jobs and maybe give them insight into future job opportunities in the trades. Being able to try operating certain equipment and experiencing firsthand how things are done might give them some direction of where they could see themselves working in the future.

Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.

This will bring 30-40 employers/vendors to our area from all over the region for an all-day event that impacts our 7-12 students at Aitkin High School. Then, we will invite our McGregor and Hill City schools to join us so we are serving Aitkin County as a whole.

List target audience:

7-12 grade Aitkin High School students. As well as students from McGregor and Hill City public schools, where they will bring 1 -2 grades with to our event. If we are able to provide a time for Crosby – Ironton school, then they will bring 1 grade over for this event.

4. PROJECT BUDGET: in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
Meals/drinks, snacks for vendors	2000	1500	2500
Swag/door prizes		500	500



TOTALS			4000

Contact Signature:

Name Amanda Voller Date: 02/06/2024