



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 13.

DATE OF MEETING: June 27, 2011

REQUESTED BY: Chris May, Cape Fear Council of Governments

SHORT TITLE: Resolution Approving Pender County Sponsorship of a CDBG Grant on behalf of the Cape Fear Council of Governments (CFCOG) for Preparation of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Pender County and the CFCOG Member Counties

BACKGROUND: The Council of Governments across North Carolina are working with the US Department of Economic Development, the NC Department of Commerce and SAS Institute to secure CDBG grant monies to develop updated and consistent comprehensive economic development strategies (CEDs) for each county and region in the State. Every county is required to have a CEDs in place in order to qualify for US Economic Development Administration funding for economic development projects. The State desires to develop a blueprint for growth and development based on common sense and sustainable best practices. The Cape Fear Council of Governments (CFCOG) will be coordinating the CEDs process for our COG, and has requested that Pender County be the sponsor of the CDBG grant for this project. The County, partnering with the CFCOG, will be the CDBG grant applicant and will follow the process for funding, budgeting, and administration as with every other CDBG grant.

Additional information regarding the request and CEDs is attached.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To consider a resolution approving Pender County sponsorship of a CDBG grant on behalf of the Cape Fear Council of Governments (CFCOG) for Preparation of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Pender County and the CFCOG Member Counties.

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Respectfully recommend approval.

RB
Initial

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Pender County Board of Commissioners that:

the Board hereby approves Pender County sponsorship of a CDBG grant on behalf of the Cape Fear Council of Governments (CFCOG) for Preparation of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Pender County and the CFCOG Member Counties. The Chairman/County Manager is authorized to execute any/all documents necessary to implement this resolution.

AMENDMENTS:

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____

APPROVED _____ DENIED _____ UNANIMOUS

YEA VOTES: Brown ___ Tate ___ Rivenbark ___ Ward ___ Williams ___

George R. Brown, Chairman Date

ATTEST Date



CAPE FEAR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

June 15, 2011

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Local
Government in:

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County**

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Belville
Boiling Spring Lakes
Bolivia
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Holden Beach
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Navassa
Northwest
Oak Island
Ocean Isle Beach
Sandy Creek
Shallotte
Southport
St. James
Sunset Beach

**Columbus
County**

Bolton
Brunswick
Cerro Gordo
Chadbourn
Fair Bluff
Lake Waccamaw
Sandyfield
Tabor City
Whiteville

**New Hanover
County**

Carolina Beach
Kure Beach
Wilmington
Wrightsville Beach

**Pender
County**

Atkinson
Burgaw
Surf City
Topsail Beach

Rick Benton, Manager
Pender County Administration
Post Office Box 5
Burgaw, North Carolina 28425-0005

RE: NC TOMORROW Project/CDBG Application for Pender County

Dear Rick:

As a follow up to our conversation today, I am providing additional information about the potential CDBG funding for the NC TOMORROW initiative. The NC Department of Commerce and the 17 regional councils of government are in discussions about the potential for creating a more uniform approach to economic development planning across the state. The aim is to produce a comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) for each region based on HUD's six principles for sustainable communities.

This common effort would allow the regional plans to be consolidated into a State strategy with a uniform format, while recognizing the varying development needs of different parts of the state. The regional councils are also working with the federal Economic Development Administration on this initiative. A one page project summary is attached which provides more details. This could be used as part of your next agenda package to the Commissioners.

While the proposed grant announcement has not yet been released, I believe that Pender County would be an appropriate applicant for the four-county CFCOG Region. As you know, CDBG funds must be awarded to a local government grantee. If Pender County is willing to serve as the applicant, CFCOG would act as the sub-grantee to carry out the work and manage the grant. I do not foresee any significant burden for the County as you already have a CDBG scattered site housing grant in progress. All of the anticipated plans and policies (such as fair housing and procurement) required of CDBG grantees are already in place. **The anticipated grant award is approximately \$70,000 per grantee for a period of 18 to 24 months.** This amount will not hinder the County's other CDBG efforts as this grant will not count as part of Pender's cap.

If the County is willing to act as the applicant for this potential grant, we would work with you to schedule the two required public hearings, prepare the application and administer the project.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Chris May
Executive Director

Attachment



North Carolina Tomorrow

A Collaborative for Sustainable Economic Growth

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Carolina Association of Regional Councils through a collaborative partnership with the US Department of Economic Development, North Carolina Department of Commerce- Community Development Division and the SAS Institute of Cary, NC to create a **Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**.

The Statewide CEDS can serve as a “blueprint” for growth and development based on common-sense, sustainable best practices and “one version of the truth” provided by data collection and analysis from the SAS Institute. The SAS Institute is developing software specifically for the initiative, **North Carolina Regional Economic Prosperity Strategy (REPS)**. REPS will be a “tool” for use by planning professionals, economic development professionals, elected officials and private industry developers. REPS will be housed at the SAS Institute in Cary at their World Headquarters in the Institute for State and Local Government that was established in 2010.

EDA has provided funding to assist the Association in developing a Statewide CEDS. The NC Division of Community Assistance has funded the initiative through the NC Catalyst Program of the CDBG funds. They are providing planning grants to as many as 17 non-entitlement local governments serving as the lead regional coordinator within each of the 17 Council of Governments (COGs) regions. In exchange for the grant, the non-entitlement local unit of government must foster regional multi-jurisdictional participation around the program goals and develop the regional NC Tomorrow Sustainable Strategic Plan that will build the foundation for the **Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**.

The Regional Councils will lead the effort to develop the **Statewide CEDS** that will center on the six livability principles established by the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities and the six Investment Principles set forth by the US Department of Economic Development. In addition, the Association will follow the National Association of Regional Development Organization’s (NADO) **Standards of Excellence** for CEDS development. The planning process will include all sectors of the economic development community including local, regional and state economic developers, planners, private industry, educational institutions, elected officials and many other community organizations that work on the ground to make North Carolina a great place to live, work and play.

The Association and its partners aspire to develop a strong foundation for common sense development and growth that will create jobs for our citizens while conserving the natural resources that make North Carolina the special place it has always been...a place where companies can thrive and grow their business and where families want to live.