Regional Prosperity Initiative

Fiscal Year 2015: Relevant Boilerplate

The legislature included boilerplate language to guide the Regional Prosperity Initiative. This boilerplate section, Section 890 of 2014 Public Act 252, largely maintained many of the requirements of the program, with brief updated requirements for previous grant recipients, and gives the Department of Technology, Management and Budget the authority to implement an application process and method for grant distribution. The full text of this boilerplate section is as follows:

Sec. 890. (1) The funds appropriated in part 1 for the regional prosperity initiative are to be used as grants to eligible regional planning organizations qualifying for funding as a regional prosperity collaborative, a regional prosperity council, or a regional prosperity board. A regional planning organization may not qualify for funding under more than 1 category in the same state fiscal year. An eligible regional planning organization is defined under any of the following:

(a) An existing regional planning commission pursuant to 1945 PA 281, MCL 125.11 to 125.25.
(b) An existing regional economic development commission pursuant to 1966 PA 46, MCL 125.1231 to 125.1237.
(c) An existing metropolitan area council pursuant to 1989 PA 292, MCL 124.651 to 124.729.
(d) A Michigan metropolitan planning organization pursuant to the moving ahead for progress in the 21st century act, Public Law 112-141.

(2) Regional planning organizations may qualify to receive not more than $250,000.00 of incentive based funding as a regional prosperity collaborative subject to meeting all of the following requirements:

(a) The existence or formation of a regional prosperity collaborative, defined as any committee developed by a regional planning organization which serves to bring organizational representation together from private, public, and nonprofit entities within a region for the purpose of creating a phase one: regional prosperity plan, as follows:

(*i*) The collaborative must include regional representatives from adult education, workforce development, economic development, transportation, and higher education organizations.
(*ii*) The phase one: regional prosperity plan is required, at a minimum, to include a 5-year economic development blueprint for the region, a performance dashboard and measurable annual goals.
(*iii*) The 5-year economic development blueprint must include plans related to regional planning of adult education, workforce development, economic development, transportation, and higher education.
(*iv*) The regional prosperity collaborative shall adopt its phase one: regional prosperity plan by a 2/3 majority vote of its members.

(b) Accountability and transparency, which requires the regional prosperity collaborative to meet the following requirements:

(*i*) Convene monthly meetings to consider and discuss issues leading to a common vision of economic prosperity for the region, including, but not limited to, economic development, talent, and infrastructure opportunities.

(*ii*) Make available on a publicly accessible Internet site by 1 or all of the regional prosperity collaborative member organizations, pertinent documents, including, but not limited to, monthly meeting agendas, minutes of monthly meetings, and the regional prosperity plan and performance dashboard.

(c) The existence of a status report detailing the spending associated with previous regional prosperity initiative grants. Organizations that have successfully received grant awards in previous fiscal years shall be required to make available to the department and on a publicly accessible Internet site information regarding the use of those grant dollars.

(3) Regional planning organizations eligible to receive a payment as a regional prosperity collaborative under subsection (2) may qualify to receive a 1-time grant of not more than $75,000.00 for feasibility and process mapping to produce a plan to transform the regional prosperity collaborative into a regional prosperity council or regional prosperity board, including necessary local formal agreements, to make recommendations that eliminate duplicative efforts and administrative functions, and to leverage resources through cooperation, collaboration, and consolidations of structures throughout the region. Plans produced to transform the regional prosperity collaborative into a regional prosperity council or regional prosperity board shall be made available on a publicly accessible Internet site by at least 1 of the regional prosperity collaborative member organizations.

(4) Regional planning organizations may qualify to receive not more than $375,000.00 of incentive based funding as a regional prosperity council subject to meeting all of the following requirements:

(a) The formation of a regional prosperity council, defined as a regional body with representation from private, public, and nonprofit entities with shared administrative services and an executive governing entity, as demonstrated by a formal local agreement or agreements for the purpose of creating a phase two: regional prosperity plan, as follows:

(*i*) The council must include regional representatives from adult education, workforce development, economic development, transportation, and higher education organizations.
(*ii*) The council shall identify additional opportunities for shared administrative services and decision-making among the private, public, and nonprofit entities within the region and continue collaboration among regional prosperity council members, including, but not limited to, representatives from adult education providers, workforce development agencies, economic development agencies, transportation service providers, and higher education institutions.
(*iii*) The phase two: regional prosperity plan is required to include a status report of the approved 5-year plan and the addition of a 10-year economic development blueprint for the region, including a performance dashboard with measurable annual goals, and a prioritized list of regional projects.
(*iv*) The regional prosperity council shall adopt its phase two: regional prosperity plan by a 2/3 vote.

(b) Accountability and transparency, which requires the regional prosperity council to meet the following requirements:

(*i*) Convene monthly meetings to consider, discuss, and make business decisions on issues leading to a common vision of economic prosperity for the region, including, but not limited to, economic development, talent, and infrastructure opportunities.
(*ii*) Make available on a publicly accessible Internet site by 1 or all of the regional prosperity council member organizations, pertinent documents, including, but not limited to, monthly meeting agendas, minutes of monthly meetings, local agreements pertinent to the organization and operations of the council, feasibility studies, the regional prosperity plan, and performance dashboard.

(c) The existence of a status report detailing the spending associated with previous regional prosperity initiative grants. Organizations that have successfully received grant awards in previous fiscal years shall be required to make available to the department and on a publicly accessible Internet site information regarding the use of those grant dollars.

(5) Regional planning organizations eligible to receive a payment as a regional prosperity council under subsection (4) may qualify to receive a 1-time grant of not more than $75,000.00 for feasibility and process mapping to produce a plan to transform the regional prosperity council into a regional prosperity board, including a singular private/public governance structure that comports with federal guidelines for governance under the workforce investment act, Public Law 105-220, the moving ahead for progress in the 21st century act, Public Law 112-141, the economic development administration and Appalachian regional development reform act of 1998, Public Law 105-393, and recommendations to eliminate duplicative efforts, administrative functions, and leverage resources through cooperation, collaboration, and consolidations of structures throughout the region.

(6) Regional planning organizations may qualify to receive not more than $500,000.00 of incentive based funding as a regional prosperity board subject to meeting all of the following requirements:

(a) The formation of a regional prosperity board, defined as a regional body with representation from private, public, and nonprofit entities engaged in joint decision-making practices for the purpose of creating a phase three: regional prosperity plan, as follows:

(*i*) The board, at a minimum, must demonstrate the consolidation of regional metropolitan planning organization board or boards, state designated regional planning agency board or boards, workforce development board or boards, and federally designated economic development district or districts.
(*ii*) The board shall create a regional services recommendations report outlining the prioritized list of state funded services and programs provided to the region, and recommendations for state-regional partnerships to support the adopted regional prosperity plan.
(*iii*) The phase three: regional prosperity plan is required to include a status report of the approved 10-year plan.
(*iv*) The regional prosperity board shall adopt its phase three: regional prosperity plan by a 2/3 vote of its members.

(b) Accountability and transparency, which requires the regional prosperity board to meet the following requirements:

(*i*) Convene monthly meetings to consider, discuss, and make business decisions on issues leading to a common vision of economic prosperity for the region, including, but not limited to, economic development, talent, and infrastructure opportunities.
(*ii*) Make available on a publicly accessible Internet site by 1 or all of the regional prosperity board member organizations, pertinent documents, including, but not limited to, monthly meeting agendas, minutes of monthly meetings, local agreements pertinent to the organization and operations of the council, feasibility studies, the regional prosperity plan, performance dashboard, and the regional services recommendation report.

(7) Regional planning organizations eligible to receive a payment as a regional prosperity board under subsection (6) may qualify to receive not more than $125,000.00, to build or enhance infrastructure or tools necessary to facilitate greater collaboration among regional prosperity board members, and to implement the regional prosperity plan projects.

(8) Regional planning organizations eligible to receive a payment as a regional prosperity collaborative, board, or council may partner with other eligible regional planning organizations as defined in this section to submit joint applications. In the instance of a joint application, 1 regional planning organization must be utilized as the overall

applicant. The department may award a joint application award of no greater than the sum of potential application dollars which would have otherwise been available through individual applications.

(9) The department shall develop an application process and method of grant distribution for the regional prosperity initiative. Funding applications from regional planning organizations shall be due to the department by November 1, 2014. The department shall notify regional planning organizations of grant application status by January 1, 2015. The department shall ensure that processes are established to verify that qualifying regional planning organizations meet the requirements under subsections (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7), as applicable.

(10) Unexpended funds appropriated in part 1 for the regional prosperity initiative are designated as work project appropriations, and any unencumbered or unallotted funds shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year and shall be available for expenditure for regional prosperity initiative projects under this section until the projects have been completed. The following is in compliance with section 451a of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a:

(a) The purpose of the projects is to provide incentive-based grants to recipients under this section.
(b) The projects will be accomplished by grants to qualified regional planning organizations.
(c) The total estimated cost of all projects is $2,500,000.00.
(d) The estimated completion date is September 30, 2019.