



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

ADA TOWNSHIP • ALGOMA TOWNSHIP • ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP • ALPINE TOWNSHIP • BELDING • BYRON TOWNSHIP • CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP • CANNON TOWNSHIP • CASCADE TOWNSHIP • CEDAR SPRINGS COOPERSVILLE • COURTLAND TOWNSHIP • EAST GRAND RAPIDS • GAINES TOWNSHIP • GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP • GRAND RAPIDS • GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP • GRANDVILLE • GREENVILLE • HASTINGS HUDSONVILLE • IONIA • JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP • KENT COUNTY • KENTWOOD • LOWELL • LOWELL TOWNSHIP • MIDDLEVILLE • OTTAWA COUNTY • PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP • ROCKFORD SAND LAKE • TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP • WALKER • WAYLAND • WYOMING

November 1, 2017

Regional Prosperity Initiative:


This letter is on behalf of the Region 4 West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance to request the 2018 Regional Prosperity Initiative Grant Tier I. The Alliance includes the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, West Michigan Regional Planning Commission, and West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission. Additional coalition members include representation from higher education, adult education, community development, the philanthropic community and economic development. Attached you will find letters of support signed by all of the required partners. The fiduciary for the grant will be the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council. The Metro Council's mission is to advance the current and future well-being of our metropolitan area by bringing together public and private sectors to cooperatively advocate, plan for, and coordinate the provisions of services and investments which have environmental, economic and social impact. As such, its mission correlates perfectly with the intent of the Regional Prosperity Grants.

The Region 4 West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance has been extremely successful over the past three years implementing 2015, 2016 and 2017 grants. The collaboration and cooperation among the region's entities has been exceptional. The Alliance has been a leader in the Prosperity Initiative and has achieved all of the primary grant objectives.


The requested 2018 grant will be used to fund the ongoing effort of the Regional Prosperity Initiative including implementation of the five-year prosperity plan, as well as ongoing monthly meetings, communications, and proof of transparency.

West Michigan is well-known throughout the state for its collaborative nature. It is our hope that this 2018 Tier I grant would be the catalyst for further collaborative activities, as well as serve as a template for other regions.


Sincerely,


John W. Weiss, Executive Director
GVMC



David Bee, Director
WMRPC

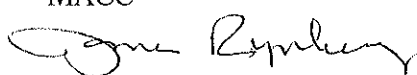

Steve Bulthuis, Director
MACC


Erin Kuhn, Director
WMSRDC


Al Vanderberg, Chair
GVMC


John Johansen, Chair
WMRPC


Pankaj Rajadhyaksha, Chair
MACC


James Rynberg, Chair
WMSRDC



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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A Resolution In Support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Participation in the Regional Prosperity Alliance 2018 Grant Request

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 3 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, as well as many Economic Development, Community Development and Non-Profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 country region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance, and,

WHEREAS, The above mentioned partners have completed 2015-2017 of the Regional Prosperity Initiative with exceptional cooperation and collaboration with their efforts recognized statewide.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Board of Directors hereby endorses our participation in the Regional Prosperity Initiative and,

Be It Further Resolved that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council is honored and pleased to provide leadership in this regional venture by submitting the grant application on behalf of our West Michigan Region.

Approved on November 2, 2017 by the Board of Directors of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

John W. Weiss
Executive Director, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

11/2/17
Date

Al Vanderberg
Chair, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

11/2/17
Date



November 27, 2017

Mr. John Weiss

Executive Director

West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance

678 Front Street – Suite 200

Grand Rapids MI 49504

Re: Letter of Support – Region 4 RPI Grant Application

Dear Mr. Weiss:

The purpose of this letter is to wholeheartedly support the Regional Prosperity Grant Application for West Michigan for FY 2018.

Since the beginning of this initiative, the leadership of this Region has focused on what matters most for the citizens of the 13 counties here, and this application is no exception. The projects and initiatives illustrated here as priorities for West Michigan demonstrate the collaborative and innovative spirit of the region and our commitment to work together for the overall benefit of the entire region.

For the above reasons, it is my pleasure to provide this letter of support for the FY 2018 RPI Grant Application. I can be reached at 517-899-4649 or rsafford@hntb.com if there are any questions or if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger L. Safford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Roger L. Safford, P.E.

Associate Vice President



Muskegon Area First
380 W. Western, Suite 202
Muskegon, MI 49440
(231) 724-3172
(231) 728-7251
muskegonareafirst.org

November 27, 2017

Gayle L. McCrath
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Director of Human Resources and Administration
678 Front St. NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

RE: West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative Grant Application

Dear Ms. McCrath,

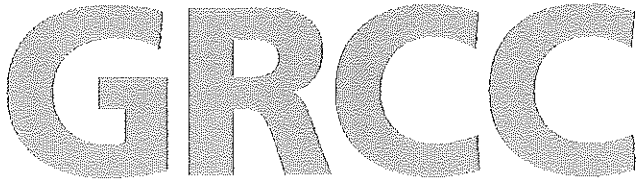
This letter is written as confirmation of Muskegon Area First Economic Development Corporation's support of the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance and Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's submittal of the 2018 grant request for Region 4.

Also, I am honored to serve on the Steering Committee for the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance to participate in collaborative efforts for Region 4.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darryl Todd".

Darryl Todd
Interim President/CEO



Bill Pink, Ph.D.
President

November 28, 2017

Gayle L. McCrath
Director of Human Resources & Administration
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Ave. NW Ste. 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Gayle,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. Grand Rapids Community College is a committed partner in the effort to bring representatives of adult education, workforce, economic development, transportation and higher education together to share issues of regional importance that will surely help us achieve our goals for greater regional economic prosperity.

GRCC wholeheartedly endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. Please feel free to contact me directly should you need anything.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Pink", is written over a horizontal line.

Bill Pink, Ph.D
President

GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

143 Bostwick Avenue, NE • Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-3295 • ph: (616) 234-3901 • fax: (616) 234-2262 • grcc.edu

VISION • As a college of distinction, GRCC inspires students to meet the needs of the community and the world.

MISSION • GRCC is an open access college that prepares individuals to attain their goals and contribute to the community.

Allegan Public Schools

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Brenda Nyhof, Director
Online & Adult Education
bnyhof@alleganps.org 269-673-5431 ext. 3022

Allegan Public Schools
550 Fifth St. • Allegan, MI 49010

November 28, 2017

Mr. John Weiss

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

678 Front Ave. NW Ste. Woo

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Mr. Weiss,

Allegan Adult Education/Allegan Public Schools (AAE/APS) is pleased to continue its affiliation with the Regional Prosperity Alliance (RPI) for the 2017/2018 program year. Through the leadership provided by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC), the RPI remains an effective and responsive implementation of Governor Snyder's vision for regional prosperity initiatives.

AAE/APS is supportive of the efforts of the RPI to integrate the adult education services of West Michigan into the fabric that will improve the region's economic and quality of life vitality. An educated population improves the quality of life in our communities.

The role that Grad Valley Metropolitan council has played in interpreting the vision of regional prosperity has been vital to the successes we have seen to date. The GVMC staff facilitates the growth of relationships that are needed to help make the changes necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Nyhof".

Brenda Nyhof

Director Allegan Adult Education



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
3000 NORTH STILES ROAD
P.O. BOX 277
SCOTTVILLE, MICHIGAN 49454-0277
231/843-5540

November 27, 2017

Mr. John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504


Dear Mr. Weiss:

I am writing on behalf of West Shore Community College in support of the grant application for another year of funding for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

West Shore Community College has been a partner in the Regional Prosperity Initiative project since its implementation. As an institution of higher education, we strongly believe in the value it brings to our area, which is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, workforce development, education, planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies.

Please accept this letter as our endorsement for the application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative. If additional information is needed, I can be reached at (231) 843-5802.

Sincerely,


Scott C. Ward
President



**Macatawa Area
Coordinating Council**

A Cooperative Effort Among Units of Government

Policy Board

- Howard Baumann, Jr.
- Joseph Baumann
- Thomas Bird
- Nancy DeBoer
- Ken DeWeerd
- Tery Hofmeyer
- Gerald Hunsburger
- John Kleinheksel
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- Glenn Nykamp
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- Jim Storey
- Russ Te Slaa
- ✦ David Van Ginhoven
- Todd Wolters
- ✦ Executive Committee

November 21, 2017

John Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Avenue NW, Ste. 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John,

The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council is pleased to provide this letter in support of the application for FY 2018 funding from the Regional Prosperity Initiative. The West Michigan Prosperity Alliance (Region 4) continues to make significant progress helping to promote regional prosperity and collaboration through its various initiatives and support of regional partners. The FY2018 request for financial support will help us continue our efforts.

Thanks for your leadership on this important initiative. Much has been accomplished but there is still much to do!

Sincerely,

Steve Bulthuis
Executive Director
Macatawa Area Coordinating Council



November 20, 2017

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave., NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

I am writing on behalf of Grand Valley State University in support of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The leadership Grand Valley Metropolitan Council has provided has been impressive. It is no small task to convene representatives from a 13 county area from various sectors, including workforce development, government, education and private industry. The conversations have been collaborative and relevant, resulting in a coordinated approach to building and sustaining the vitality of West Michigan.

Although much has been accomplished, there is great opportunity to build upon the existing and expanded collaboration that have been developed. Continued funding will allow us to further develop strategies and leverage resources, to the benefit of our communities.

Sincerely,

Simone Jonaitis, PhD
Executive Director
Center for Adult & Continuing Studies
Grand Valley State University



community foundation

Muskegon County

For good. For ever.

November 16, 2017

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Kathleen Torresen

Kathi A. Tyler

James L. Waters

Thomas G. Witt

Mr. John Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Avenue Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John:

I am writing to express the continued support of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County for the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). The RPI has demonstrated the collaborative nature of our region, and we look forward to its continued success.

We also support the submission of a grant application which will provide funding from the State of Michigan to support our ongoing collaborative efforts.

I will continue to serve on the RPI Steering Committee as a representative of the philanthropic community.

Sincerely,

Bob Chapla
Community Foundation for Muskegon County

k:\advlp\miscellaneous\rpi commitment letter nov 2017.docx



Kent Intermediate School District
2930 Knapp NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49425

November 2017


To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative (MRPI) in which I am a member representing adult education in Michigan Prosperity Region 4. Kent Intermediate School District is the fiscal for Section 107 adult education programs. As the Kent ISD Region 4 Adult Education Consultant, I represent the seventeen (17) adult education programs in the thirteen (13) county area. The work of the Regional Prosperity Initiative is instrumental in developing educational and economic development partnerships vital to our region.

July 2014 marked the beginning in which the Section 107 Adult Education state funding and delivery of services was legislated to operate on a regional basis. The 2010 census reveals there are over 80,000 adults in Region 4 who do not possess a high school diploma or GED. Last year, Region 4 adult education programs served over 3,200 adults. This is only 4% of the eligible adults. Kent ISD and Region 4 adult education providers are committed to expanding services throughout thirteen counties. It is imperative that MRPI be funded for another year so that we may continue to form partnerships to better streamline services and address the needs of education, employment skills and quality life in West Michigan.

As a member of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance Steering Committee, I applaud Mr. John Weiss, Chair, of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance for his leadership role in this process and recommend that he continue to serve in his role as Chair in leading the committee forward to accomplish its goals.

Yours in Education,



Patricia J. Walstra

Region 4 Adult Education Consultant



www.mecostaedc.com

James M. Sandy, President

~~746 West State Street~~, Big Rapids, MI 49307 ph: (231)592-3403 email: jsandy@co.mecosta.mi.us
14330 Northland Drive,

MECOSTA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

REGIONAL PROSPERITY INITIATIVE

RESOLUTION

Resolution adopted by the Mecosta County Development Corporation at its regularly scheduled Executive Committee Meeting of November 9, 2017:

WHEREAS, in 2012 the State of Michigan formed a Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee to plan for improving collaboration between Michigan's Regional Planning Agencies, Work Force Development Agencies, Adult Education Providers, Transportation Officials, Economic Development Agencies, and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, in August 2013 the Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee introduced the Regional Prosperity Initiative that includes ten new Prosperity Regions, and various levels of funding to enhance collaboration and to develop a Five Year Regional Prosperity Plan for each of Michigan's ten Prosperity Regions; and

WHEREAS, the Region 4 Prosperity Alliance, which includes the thirteen counties of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, and Ottawa has been formed; and

WHEREAS, representatives from these thirteen counties have successfully joined together, organized and identified projects that impact region; and

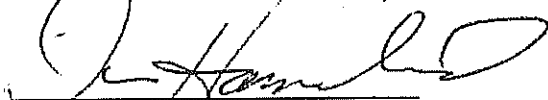
WHEREAS, the representatives believe that the initiative has even greater potential for working together in a collaborative way; and

WHEREAS, representatives remain committed to the initiative;


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mecosta County Development Corporation continues to support the Regional Prosperity Initiative and agrees to support the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council as the grant applicant; and

FURTHERMORE, the Mecosta County Development Corporation designates James M. Sandy, President, as the organization's representative and authorizes his participation in the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

MOVED-BY: Bill Stanek
SUPPORTED BY: Keith Kenney



DAVE HAMELUND
Chairperson



JIM SANDY
President

November 9, 2017
Date

November 9, 2017
Date



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Area Community Services
Employment & Training Council
1550 Leonard NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
(616) 336-4100

SERVICE CENTERS

Allegan County
3255 122nd Ave
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 686-5079

220 East Main St
Fennville, MI 49408
(269) 561-2001

Barry County
136 E State St
Hastings, MI 49058
(616) 649-9850

Ionia County
301 W Main St
Ionia, MI 48846
(616) 389-8525

Kent County
121 Franklin SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 336-4040

215 Straight Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 336-4460

10075 Northland Dr NE
Rockford, MI 49341
(616) 228-6724

Montcalm County
114 S Greenville W Dr
Greenville, MI 48838
(616) 754-3611

Muskegon County
316 Morris Ave
Muskegon, MI 49440
(231) 724-6381

Ottawa County
121 Clover St
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 396-2154

John Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. Ste 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

It has been my pleasure to serve as Vice-Chair for the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance (Region 4). As a member of the Steering Committee, we have prepared a 5-year plan that will identify efforts to improve the economic competitiveness of the region. We have funded a number of initiatives that will have a positive impact on the entire West Michigan region.

The West Michigan Prosperity Alliance has allowed greater regional collaboration among the many organizations that impact economic development efforts. This initial planning effort set the stage for an even bigger impact in the future; involving private sector interests that need to embrace and support initiatives such as this as essential to their economic success.

Please accept this letter as confirmation of West Michigan Works! support the 2018 grant application. We have accomplished a lot since our initial meetings and the continuation of the initiative will benefit the whole region.

If there is anything else you need, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob Maas".

Jacob Maas
Chief Executive Officer
West Michigan Works!
1550 Leonard NE | Grand Rapids, MI 49505
(616) 336-4128



November 15, 2017

Mr. John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave, NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

Talent 2025 is proud to support the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance's (WMPA) prosperity initiative—a strong addition to the region's network of initiatives to create a vibrant regional economy.

In order to remain competitive, West Michigan and the state as a whole must be able to attract and retain skilled talent. As part of Governor Rick Snyder's Regional Prosperity Initiative, WMPA's efforts create greater alignment and collaboration in the region among organizations involved in economic and workforce development, post-secondary education, transportation agencies, local and state government, and private and non-profit companies.

I am proud to support WMPA because their work is closely aligned with Talent 2025's goals. Composed of over 100 CEOs from the region's 13 counties, Talent 2025 strives to be a driving force for an ongoing supply of world-class talent by convening leaders and organizations that will improve the region's talent attraction, retention, and development efforts.

We believe supporting the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance allows our region to become more responsive to the needs of businesses and support the region's economic growth. It is essential to ensure our finite resources are used wisely to enrich our expanding communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Stotts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Stotts
President



A proud partner of the American Job Center Network

LARRY EMIG
Chair, Local Elected Officials
DEBORAH SMITH-OLSON
Chair, Workforce Development Board
PAUL J. GRIFFITH
Executive Director

www.michworks.org

231.796.4891 • Fax: 231.796.8316

14330 Northland Drive • Big Rapids, Michigan 49307

November 9, 2017

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Avenue NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Subject: Regional Prosperity Initiative

Dear Mr. Weiss:

This letter is written in support of the collaborative grant application from the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance for the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

We have seen great new partnerships and collaboration developed among Steering Committee members and the communities they represent. It's very exciting to see the types of projects that received funding and moving forward, such as Michigan's Dragon at the Hardy Pond trail, the Connect Michigan 2.0 project, with Kent County being the first county in Michigan to achieve 2.0 certification and the many mini-grants to help rural communities move along the Infrastructure Asset Management Pilot project.

Serving the rural counties of Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Newaygo, Oceana and Osceola, Michigan Works! West Central has always been committed to improving regional employment conditions and enhancing the economic development of our region. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Sincerely,


Paul J. Griffith
Executive Director

Our Mission: "To continually improve a Workforce Development System that produces a workforce with the required skills to attract, retain and expand business and enhance our regional economy."



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
GRAND REGION

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KIRK T. STEUDLE
DIRECTOR

October 31, 2017

Mr. John Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Avenue, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate as a member of the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance. I am pleased to offer my continued participation as an at-large member of the Steering Committee.

Thank you for your leadership on the Steering Committee. Please let me know what I can do to support the efforts moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erick J. Kind".

Erick J. Kind, P.E.
Region Engineer

BOH:GRAND:EJK:ck

cc: D. Wresinski
D. Kent



LAKE SHORE ADVANTAGE

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October 24, 2017

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Schools

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Ottawa County

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Royal Technologies

Jeweral Washington
J-Max Transportation

Dr. Mirka Wilderer
Evoqua Water Technologies

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

Lakeshore Advantage presents this letter of endorsement in full support of your application to obtain grant funding from the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). The goal to establish stronger local and regional collaboration is an essential endeavor in supporting economic investment. Simultaneously, it leads to greater quality of place while increasing business and talent attraction.

As a member of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Collaborative Development Council, our organization is related to one of the five target groups identified by the RPI as a required participant. We appreciate the latitude the state has provided local leaders in developing the process they want to pursue in establishing stronger local and regional collaboration. We also want to thank the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council for their willingness to be the applicant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

We will continue to be actively engaged in this effort and hope the state fully funds the application.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Owens,
President

201 W. Washington Ave. Loft 410
Zeeland, Michigan 49464

P 616.772.5226
F 616.772.5602

lakeshoreadvantage.com



November 2, 2018

Mr. John Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Avenue, NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Re: 2018 Regional Prosperity Alliance Application

Dear John:

The Right Place, Inc. supports the preparation and submission of an application requesting \$250,000 grant funding to continue this regional collaborative during 2018.

The grant funding, if approved, will be used to improve the economy of West Michigan through strategies and projects involving infrastructure, workforce and talent development, and economic development. These activities will complement the work of The Right Place.

Rick Chapla, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives will continue to serve on the Steering and Executive Committees as our representative to continue the momentum of the initiative during 2018.

Sincerely,

Birgit M. Klohs
President & CEO

the
CHAMBER

5300 West U.S. 10
LUDINGTON, MI 49431
231.845.0324
WWW.LUDINGTON.ORG

LUDINGTON & SCOTTVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

November 1, 2017

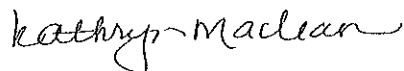
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
c/o John Weiss
678 Front Ave. NW Ste. 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Mason County Growth Alliance and the Ludington & Scottville Area Chamber of Commerce I am writing to express support of the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance and Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's submittal of the 2018 grant request for Region 4.

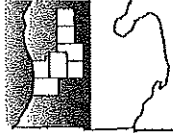
I am honored to serve on the Steering Committee and to participate in the successful collaborative efforts of our region.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Maclean
President/CEO

WMRPC



**WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION**

1345 Monroe Avenue NW • Suite 255 • Grand Rapids, MI 49505 • (616) 774-8400 • www.wmrpc.org

October 25, 2017

Mr. John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Avenue, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Subject: Letter of Support for Regional Prosperity Initiative

Dear Mr. Weiss,

The West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) supports the ongoing Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) and plans to fully participate in the 2018 program year.

I will continue serving on the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance (WMPA) Steering Committee. I look forward to another productive year of working with the Steering Committee.

Please let me know if there is anything the WMRPC can do to assist in the 2018 application to the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

Sincerely,

Dave Bee, AICP
Director



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To assist planning efforts in community and economic development, provide a regional forum for sharing information and ideas, and promote cooperative solutions to regional issues.

WMSRDC
WEST MICHIGAN SHORELINE
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

October 26, 2017

Mr. John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, as an active partner in the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance (Region 4), supports the grant application of the Grand Valley Metro Council for a fifth year of funding through the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative.

The level of communication, cooperation, and partnership gained in Region 4 over the past four years as a result of the Regional Prosperity Initiative, development of the Regional Prosperity Plan, and funding of priority projects is unprecedented. The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission looks forward to continuing our participation and partnership with Region 4 in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,



Erin Kuhn
Executive Director



Muskegon Community College

October 25, 2017

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of Muskegon Community College in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for a fifth year of funding for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The college has been an active partner in the Regional Prosperity Initiative project for West Michigan that got underway over the last year. Dan Rinsema-Sybenga, our Dean of Academic Affairs, serves on the steering committee and the college was honored to host the steering committee in the past.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies.

Having been part of the process over the last four years we can definitely say that these goals are being accomplished in West Michigan and that communication and regionalization has made great strides under the Regional Prosperity Initiative. The plan that the region has worked on resulted in many project submissions that would be helpful for the future of the West Michigan Region. The funding and furtherance of the project selected in the region has been a good step forward. We were honored this past year to be a project applicant on a now underway project to align skilled trade curriculums across the four community colleges located in Region 4.

Therefore, we continue to support the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and with this letter confirm our support of the Grand Valley Metro Council applying for further funding for this project. As an institution of higher education, we believe we can benefit by collaborating with our partners and other organizations in the region to better serve our constituents, which the Regional Prosperity Initiative is addressing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Nesbary', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Dale Nesbary
President, Muskegon Community College

ZEELAND ADULT EDUCATION

96 W. 15th St.
Holland, MI 49423
616-494-3416
moconnor@zps.org

November 1, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the continuation of the Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative (MRPI) in which I will continue to participate as a member representing adult education in Region #4 which consists of 13 counties. This very important endeavor is instrumental in developing educational and economic development partnerships which are vital in our region.

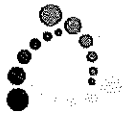
Since July, 2014, the Section 107 Adult Education state funding and the delivery of services has been legislated to operate on a regional basis with the Kent Intermediate School District serving as the fiscal agent for the 13 county region. The Zeeland Adult Education Program which I operate encompasses all of the school districts in Ottawa County as well as Fennville Adult Education in Allegan County. It also includes the Allegan County Correctional Facility and the Ottawa County Correctional Facility. It is imperative that the MRPI be funded for another year so that we may continue to form partnerships which support our regional plan which will result in a much more streamlined approach to life-long learning opportunities to meet the needs of residents and employers.

As a member of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance Steering Committee, I must applaud Mr. John Weiss, Chair, of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance for his leadership role in this process and recommend that he continue to serve in his role as Chair in leading the committee forward to accomplish its second year goals.

Sincerely,



Mike O'Connor, Director
Zeeland Adult Education Consortium



GRAND RAPIDS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 24, 2017

Mr. John Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

On behalf of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, I write to support the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Collaboration, cooperation and public-private partnerships are hallmarks of the West Michigan community. To move our region forward, we need to continue work on efforts that move a comprehensive economic development strategy forward. This can only be realized when leaders in business development, talent development and infrastructure developments unite behind a common vision. The West Michigan Prosperity Alliance has made great strides in this effort and there more to be done.

This efforts is no small undertaking and it continues to pay dividends. Approval of this application will continue to advance the great work already underway in West Michigan.

The Chamber is committed to this work in collaboration with our other community partners and we offer our strong support for Grand Valley Metro Council's application.

Sincerely,

Rick Baker
President & CEO

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October 24, 2017

Mr. John Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Ave. NW, Ste. 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Mr. Weiss:

On behalf of EightCAP, I would like to thank you and the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance for the opportunity to be a part of the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance Steering Team. Please accept this letter as our organization's support for the 2018 Region 4 Regional Prosperity Initiative Application. EightCAP looks forward to being a part of the planning initiatives and projects that are embodied in this application.

If EightCAP can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Daniel Petersen
President