

MT SWIB

STATE WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

AGENDA ACTION REPORT

MEETING Executive Committee
March 16, 2017

ITEM Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Application for a
Greater Helena Area Workforce Assessment

ACTION REQUESTED Action Item

PRESENTED BY Shannon Lewis, SWIB Director

INFORMATION The Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program (BSTF) provides state funds to promote long-term stable economic growth in Montana with financial assistance in the following two categories:

Economic Development Job Creation Projects

Job Creation funding is awarded to create good paying jobs for residents in basic sector businesses, in the form of grants or loans. Local and tribal governments can apply on behalf of a basic sector business to create at least one net new eligible job in Montana. More information on eligible applicants and required activities for funded businesses can be found on the [Job Creation Information Page](#).

Planning Projects

Planning Projects funding is awarded to Certified Regional Development Corporations (CRDCs), tribal governments, or other economic development organizations not part of a CRDC region, to support economic development planning activities, including but not limited to support for business improvement districts; central business district redevelopment; industrial development; feasibility studies; creation and maintenance of baseline community profiles; matching funds for federal funding; preproduction costs for film or media; and administrative expenses. More information can be found on the [Planning Projects Information Page](#).

Program guidelines are available, and includes more information about the program specifics, including eligibility, penalties, procedures and other requirements.

Applications for both categories are accepted on an open-cycle basis until all available funds are committed to approved projects.

This particular application requests \$26,000 as a match for a federal grant to conduct a workforce assessment in the greater Helena area, including Helena, Lewis & Clark County, north part of Broadwater County, Townsend, the north part of Jefferson County and Boulder. This study is being conducted to assess the current workforce trends, business needs, and the impact that more industry clustering could have on the area as well as increased participation from the public schools within the area to create more talent pipelines.

MOTION To approve the use of Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund money to support the Helena-area workforce assessment study.

SYNOPSIS On Feb.23rd, 2016 the SWIB agreed to the State Workforce Innovation Board approved the partnership between the SWIB Sector Strategy Committee, Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce with the role of the Sector Strategy Committee as conveners and reviewers of specified Department of Commerce projects regarding workforce development. As we no longer have a Sector Strategies Committee, the Executive Committee agreed in its December 14, 2016 meeting that all workforce-related Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program Applications would go to the appropriate committee for review and comment.

ATTACHMENTS Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program Application for a Greater Helena Area Workforce Assessment