



GRANT AWARDS: Prosperity Region 5 Receive Grant Dollars from EMCOG

Eighteen projects out of 42 applications will receive a boost in funding thanks to the East Central Michigan Prosperity Region 5 Mini and Micro Grant awards announced this week from the East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG). This is the second year of the EMCOG grant program which is funded by Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). EMCOG is distributing \$132,000 to projects that support various economic development, workforce development, transportation, educational, outdoor recreation/tourism and place-making initiatives throughout the 8 county Prosperity Region 5. In total, 42 applicants applied for funding. The following projects were selected for 2018:

Mini Grant Awards

Central Michigan University Research Corporation (CMURC): \$15,128 - Funding will be used to help create awareness of the resources that exist in the region for entrepreneurs, focusing on connections, community, & building a sound business foundation for qualified entrepreneurs. CMURC is physically present in the Mount Pleasant Smart Zone (HQ), Uptown Bay City & downtown Saginaw (August, 2018).

Saginaw Valley State University: \$12,000 – Funding will be used to support the Great Lakes Bay Talent Initiative to include the use of a micro-site, social media campaign, and Coming Home event that highlights opportunities in the Great Lakes Bay Region; connect with employers to determine their hardest to fill positions, & market those opportunities to millennials with ties to the area in hope of attracting them back to live & work in the East Central Michigan Prosperity Region 5.

Middle Michigan Development Corporation: \$16,000 – Funding will be used to identify best practices & to create a Rural Site Marketing Toolkit for rural communities within Michigan's Prosperity Region 5 area to use when gathering information regarding select sites to market to potential buyers. This toolkit will provide rural economic development organizations with templates & other customized materials appropriate for listing select sites online, which will compliment MEDC's Site Readiness & Request for Information (RFI) Toolkit.

Mid Michigan College (MMC): \$16,000 – Funding will provide support for the MMC & Clare-Gladwin RESD shared CTE program for secondary costs associated with the installation of new welding & manufacturing equipment that was purchased through a State of Michigan grant.

Bay Veterans Foundation: \$4,887 – Funding will provide support for the creation of a wood shop/work space in which veterans can learn basic woodworking & other skills (metal working, clay casting, carving, sculpting, etc). Space will also be accessible for regular BP screening & vaccination clinics. A VA representative will have space to provide information, claims processing & other services.

Arenac County Economic Development Corporation: \$7,600 – Funding will provide support for preliminary engineering as part of the County Fairgrounds relocation project, to better understand the impact this facility will have on the local roads & infrastructure. This is part of an initiative to relocate & expand the fairground assets & also allow for growth within the industrial park once the relocation is completed.

City of Bay City: \$16,000 – Funding will provide support for a Traffic & Operations study of the Independence & Liberty Bridges to consider transportation options related to traffic safety & operations, bridge condition, & future bridge maintenance of city-owned infrastructure. These two bascule-style bridges are solely owned by the City of Bay City & are both in need of extensive repair or replacement.

City of St. Louis: \$2,878 – Funding will provide support to increase public awareness of the St. Louis Farmers Market & the programs & events that the market offers. Promotion of the market includes developing & maintaining a professional website, billboard advertising, brochures, marker bags, radio, social media, e-newsletters, mailings and the purchase of a multi-use trailer with promotional decals.

Village of Farwell DDA: \$2,522 – Funding will provide support for the first outdoor drinking fountain for the Village Park which is adjacent to the Pere-Marquette Trail to provide a water source for park attendees & users of the trail.

City of Mt Pleasant: \$16,000 – Funding will provide support for enhancements to Mission Creek Park which contains year-round amenities such as the sled hill, Dog Park & woodchip trails. This project will add a universally accessible facility that includes a restroom, concession, winter warming area & shelter facility.

Frankenmuth Jaycees: \$16,000 – Funding will provide support for construction of the Frankenmuth Jaycee Community Splash Park which consists of a community splash pad, accompanying dry playground renovation, sensory garden & on-site restroom & gathering facilities in Frankenmuth’s Memorial Park

Micro Grant Awards: (maximum of \$1,000)

Michigan Works Region 7B Consortium: \$1,000 – Funding will be used for Talent Tours for local school students & young adults. Each tour involves visiting a local employer, speaking with supervisors, employees, human resources to find out more about each career offered at the establishment, as well as the training required, & what an ‘average day on the job’ looks like.

Arenac Community Center: \$1,000 – Funding will be used to assist with developing a strategy to develop a community center in the Standish-Sterling area by repurposing an empty school building. The center would be modeled after the Beaverton Activity Center.

City of Mt. Pleasant DDA: \$1,000 – Funding will be used to support the full redesign & re-launch of the downtown website which is ten years old & cannot be updated by staff. The redesign will be a drag & drop interface which will be easy for frequent updates, include links to special events, maps, business listings & available property within the downtown district.

Saginaw Downtown Development Authority: \$985 – Funding will be used for the purchase of customized signs to be strategically placed near popular attractions & busy intersections to capture the attention of residents & visitors & will display walking distances in minutes to amenities such as parks, the library, museums, the zoo, restaurants, shopping districts, theaters & event venues.

Arenac County Economic Development Corporation: \$1,000 –Funding will be used for signage to direct people to the new Arenac County Fairgrounds location along with a welcome sign at the new location.

Arenac County Economic Development Corporation: \$1,000 – Funding will be used for a new speaker system to be used at the current location of the Arenac County Fairgrounds as well as the new location (estimated to be moved in 2020).

Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House and Gardens of Saginaw, Inc: \$1,000 - Funding will support hiring Urasenke Tankokai Association to teach the art form of the Japanese Tea Ceremony to employees & volunteers. The lessons will be taught by Senior Tea Master Soyu Nabeta, who is the highest ranked Tea Master in the US & among the highest ranked in Japan.

To learn more about EMCOG and the Regional Prosperity Initiative visit www.emcog.org For more information regarding the grants contact | Jane Fitzpatrick |EMCOG Programs Manager |989-797-0800| or jfitzpatrick@emcog.org