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Since the onset of the Coronavirus Pandemic many businesses, especially retail, personal service industries, and restaurateurs, have been and still are immensely impacted by the loss of business the pandemic has caused. In most cases, businesses had to make cuts to maintain a bottom line, adapt to new businesses procedures, reduce worker hours, and in some cases close the business entirely. The pandemic has highlighted a desperate need to reeducate or up-skill the existing and entering workforce in Martin County. Staff was able to identify this need through collaborative sessions with the Business Development Board staff, economic policy groups, chambers of commerce, and various not for profit groups operating in the community.

Staff is proposing the rehabilitation of Building 17 at Witham Field to operate as a Learning Center. Staff also suggests entering into a management agreement with Indian River State College, for the operation of the facility to provide the needed education. A variety of education, such as introductory manufacturing arts (industrial arts); introductory computer science; introductory construction aid; English as a Second Language (ESL); and aviation maintenance, etc. would be provided at the facility to meet the requirements of the CDBG-CV grant and to address the continuing educational unit (CEU) and workforce education needs.

ISSUES:

The CDBG-CV Grant requires the following items be accomplished in order to avoid a repayment penalty:

- The facility must meet a 51% attendance benefit to low and moderate income (LMI) individuals.
- The facility must address the immediate threat to health and welfare of the community.
- The facility must address a need created by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Staff estimates the full buildout for the facility to be \$1,400,000. Attached is an estimate package conducted for the rehabilitation of Building 17 on April 18, 2019.

There is no required grant match, but if one is required staff recommends utilizing the Economic Development Trust Fund to meet any match requirements.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY REVIEW:

This item has been reviewed for legal sufficiency to determine whether it is consistent with applicable law, has identified and addressed legal risks, and has developed strategies for legal defensibility.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECOMMENDATION

Move that the Board receive public comment on the proposed use of CDBG-CV funds.

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide staff with alternative direction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

RECOMMENDATION

None

Funding Source	County Funds	Non-County Funds
CDBG-CV		\$1,400,000
Subtotal		
Project Total	\$1,400,000	

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

None

DOCUMENT(S) REQUIRING ACTION:

- Budget Transfer / Amendment Chair Letter Contract / Agreement
 Grant / Application Notice Ordinance Resolution
 Other:

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