

Report CCR-PCD-14-14

To: Chair and Members of the Planning and Community Development Committee

From: Philly Markowitz, Economic Development Officer

Meeting Date: March 18, 2014

Subject: Rural Economic Development (RED) Funding for Food Safety Curriculum Development Project

Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution PCD40-14; Endorsed by Council April 1, 2014 per Resolution CC48-14;

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS Grey County has entered into an agreement with Georgian College to develop the Food Safety Regulatory Training for New and Existing Food Businesses and has budgeted for this project in 2014;

AND WHEREAS Grey County is the project lead in partnership with Georgian College and manages financial contributions from Simcoe and Bruce County;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry Rural Affairs has approved \$24,900 funding for the Food Safety Regulatory Training for New and Existing Food Businesses course development project in 2014;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry has indicated that this funding is contingent on the County and its co-applicants, Georgian College and Simcoe County, entering into the Rural Economic Development (RED) Funding Agreement with the Ministry;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report CCR-PCD-14-14 be received;

AND THAT the Warden and Clerk execute the Rural Economic Development (RED) Agreement, once a final agreement has been received and vetted through Grey County's agreement process.

Background

Grey County has contracted Georgian College for the development and delivery of a customized education program: **Food Safety Regulatory Training for New and Existing Business Owners**. This training will support the needs of small- and medium-size businesses currently adding value to agricultural products, and those agricultural producers considering a “value add” business expansion in Grey County.

As per the “Next Steps” outlined in the project information report [CCR-PCD-02-14 Food Safety Training Curriculum Development Update.docx](#), an application for Rural Economic Development (RED) funding was prepared for the December 31st, 2013 intake. On Friday, March 7th, Grey County was informed that the County and its co-applicants have been granted the full amount of the project funding request, \$24,900.

Receipt of funding is contingent on Grey County and its co-applicants entering into an agreement with the Ministry of Rural Affairs (OMRA).

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

Considerations

Grey County has invested \$2,500 from the 2013 budget and will invest an additional \$2,500 in 2014 towards the development of the curriculum. Project partners Bruce and Simcoe Counties have invested \$5,000 each and Georgian College will invest \$10,000 for a total investment of \$25,000. The receipt of funds from the RED program brings the project budget from \$25,000 to a total of \$49,900.

Staff resources required to support this project are available within existing departmental work plans and are described as “in-kind” contributions as outlined on page 12 of the grant application document [RED Application - Food Safety Regulatory Training for New and Existing Food Businesses](#).

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

This project aligns with Grey County’s Strategic plan Goal 1.3 to “enhance the viability and diversification of agricultural operations and primary industries”.

Attachments

Please see links embedded above.

Respectfully submitted by: Philly Markowitz, Economic Development Officer

Director Sign Off: *Sharon Vokes*