

Regional Prosperity Initiative

Fiscal Year 2017 Evaluation Criteria

Pursuant to state law, applicants will be notified of the standing of their application by January 1, 2017.

ALL APPLICANTS: Evaluation Criteria

1. Demonstrative Commitment to Collaboration:

Eligible grant proposals must meet the requirements of the legislative and executive intent by bringing together organizational representation among the required participants from within a region for the purpose of creating a regional prosperity plan. Applications with strong regional representation and a demonstrable commitment to collaboration will be looked upon favorably.

Required participants include regional representation from the **public, private and nonprofit sectors**, including representation from the following areas:

- Adult education;
- Community Development;
- Economic development;
- Transportation;
- Higher education; and
- Workforce development.

Successful applications will include, at a minimum, the required participants listed above. To be truly representative of the region, a successful applicant will also ensure the following individuals and sectors are considered when crafting participation for meaningful engagement. This list is not exhaustive. Participation will/should vary depending upon the identity, needs, and preferences of each region.

- Adult Education
The regional fiduciary for (sec. 107) adult education funding, School districts, ISDs, literacy councils, community colleges or other pertinent regional entities actively engaged in the planning and provision of adult education services.
- Community Development
Community Action Agencies located in whole or in part within the region and/or other community-based organizations focused on revitalizing the areas in which they are located, particularly areas that have experienced significant disinvestment.
- Economic Development
The CDC or CDCs, the regional EDA designated Development District or Districts within a region, and others actively engaged in economic development across the region.

- Foundations/Non-profits
CEOs, chief operating officers, or their designees with substantial responsibility from philanthropic and regionally-based community organizations.
- Higher Education
Trustees, presidents, or their designees (with substantial responsibility) from public universities and community colleges within the region.
- Local Governments
Elected officials or appointed officials (with substantial management and responsibility) from counties, cities, villages, and townships within the region.
- Private Sector
Owners, chief executives, chief operating officers, or their designees (who have substantial responsibility) in private sector firms, both large and small.
- Transportation
Each MPO operating in whole or in part within the region, all rural task force chairs, transit carrier(s), regional transit authority(ies), and other regional transportation oriented entities within a region.
- Workforce Development
Each Michigan Works! Agencies operating in whole or in part within a region.

2. Compliance with Priorities of Program: The grant proposals must comply with the intent of the Regional Prosperity Initiative by convening local and regional stakeholders for the purpose of creating or enhancing a regional prosperity plan and developing a comprehensive and measurable vision for the region’s economic prosperity. Applicants that demonstrate their commitment to leveraging local and regional partnerships and additional assets will be looked upon favorably.

- A regional prosperity plan at the Collaborative level is a 5-year plan. This plan must include:
 - A comprehensive economic development blueprint which recognizes the connections between and, at a minimum, coordinates plans for adult education, community development, economic development, higher education, transportation and workforce development;
 - A performance dashboard; and
 - Measurable annual goals.

A regional prosperity plan at the Board level is a 10-year plan. This plan must include:

- An updated 5-year plan which recognizes the connections between and, at a minimum, coordinates plans for adult education, community development, economic development, higher education, transportation and workforce development and has been previously developed and supported by all parties defined as required participants;
- A performance dashboard;
- Measurable annual goals; and
- A prioritized list of projects that corresponds to the region’s prosperity plan.

A regional prosperity plan at the Council level is a 10-year plan. This plan must include:

- An updated comprehensive economic development blueprint of a 5-year plan which recognizes the connections between and, at a minimum, coordinates plans for adult education, community development, economic development, higher education, transportation and workforce development and has been supported by all parties defined as required participants of a consolidated board (defined as the consolidation of at least two or more public boards);
- A performance dashboard;
- Measurable Annual Goals; and
- A prioritized list of projects that corresponds to the region's prosperity plan.

3. Reasonable Use of Grant Dollars: The funds made available through the Regional Prosperity Initiative should be used in a way to leverage successful regional collaboration and to create a shared economic vision for the region. While the needs for these dollars may vary by region, a successful application will:

- Demonstrate clear and detailed intended use of proposed grant dollars;
- Prioritize funding request, acknowledging that the program's budget is not large enough to fund all requests made; and
- To the extent possible, show increased revenue to the region as a result of grant dollars.

4. Clearly Defined Regional Leadership: Grant applications must be submitted by qualified entities, as prescribed in statute. Applications should identify a lead regional entity/entities and adequately illustrate that organization's ability to coordinate the other organizations involved in the application.

5. Identified Potential for Success and Difficulty: Grant applications should provide a realistic assessment of the current assets of the region and provide an understanding of how those assets can be leveraged in working toward a shared economic plan and vision for the region. Similarly, successful applicants will also acknowledge some of the potential challenges that lie ahead within a region and how the applicant and its partners can work to address the identified challenges.

6. Identified Transparency: Statute requires that meetings associated with the Regional Prosperity Initiative will be accountable and transparent. Successful applicants will illustrate compliance with the required meeting schedules and transparency of meeting documents and activities.

Applications from entities previously awarded dollars through the Regional Prosperity Initiative will also be considered based upon the following criteria:

1. **Reasonable Use of Grant Dollars:** Returning applicants must
 - Demonstrate adherence to prior awarded RPI grant budgets, and
 - Acknowledge any carryover funds from prior RPI grants, when applicable.
2. **Demonstration of Success:** Returning applicants must demonstrate significant progress toward deliverables outlined in the previously funded application. Evidence of progress will include engagement by required partners and other identified stakeholders, a copy of (or web link to) the regional body's dashboard, prosperity plan and other deliverables as identified in the successful grant application from FY 16. Deliverables that are not yet complete should be identified and evidence produced that they will be completed in accordance with the proposed and approved FY 16 grant award. The ability to illustrate positive actions/outcomes that have resulted from the regional prosperity plan and collaboration will be looked upon favorably.
3. **Adherence to Transparency Requirements:** As required by law, grant recipients must demonstrate adherence to transparency measures. Returning applicants must demonstrate compliance with monthly meetings, open meetings act provisions including public notice and publicly available minutes, and the placement of the RPI information, including a plan and dashboard, on the grant recipient's website.
4. **Adherence to Budget and Timeline:** Returning applicants must demonstrate that the expenditures and progress made to date is accordance with the timeline and budget approved by the Department of Technology Management and Budget in conjunction with previous grant awards.
5. **Continuing Needs Statement:** Returning applicants must demonstrate a continued need for collaborative economic strategy in his/her respective region. Further, the applicant must thoroughly explain how a grant would help to fulfill these needs.
6. **Lessons Learned:** Returning Applicants should identify lessons learned from the first year of RPI that they would apply to a second year, if awarded another grant. Further, applicants should explain why this experience will improve their chances for a successful outcome.