

P.A. 63 OF 2011 SECTION 951 - ECONOMIC VITALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Sec. 951. (1) From the funds appropriated in part 1 and in section 1201(2) to the economic vitality incentive program, \$5,000,000.00 is to be used for assistance grants to cities, villages, townships, and counties to offset the costs associated with mergers, interlocal agreements, and cooperative efforts for those cities, villages, townships, and counties that elect to combine government operations. Grant funding shall be available for mergers, interlocal agreements, and cooperative efforts that occur on or after October 1, 2011. The department of treasury shall develop an application process and method of grant distribution.

(2) From the funds appropriated in part 1 and in section 1201(2) to the economic vitality incentive program, \$210,000,000.00 is to be used for grants to cities, villages, and townships such that, subject to fulfilling the requirements under subsection (3)(a), (b), or (c), each city, village, or township that received a payment under section 950(2), 2009 PA 128, greater than \$4,500.00 will be eligible to receive a maximum of 67.837363% of its total payment received under section 950(2), 2009 PA 128, rounded to the nearest dollar. For the purposes of this subsection, any city or village that according to the 2010 federal decennial census is determined to have population in more than 1 county will be treated as a single entity when determining the payment received under section 950(2), 2009 PA 128.

(3) Cities, villages, and townships eligible to receive a potential payment from the allocation under subsection (2) may qualify to receive economic vitality incentive program payments under 1 or more of the following 3 categories:

(a) Category 1, accountability and transparency, requires each eligible city, village, or township to certify that by October 1, 2011, it has produced, and has made readily available to the public, a citizen's guide and a performance dashboard of its local finances, including a recognition of its unfunded liabilities. Each city, village, and township applying for a payment under this category shall submit a copy of the citizen's guide and a copy of the performance dashboard to the department of treasury by October 1, 2011.

(b) Category 2, consolidation of services, requires each eligible city, village, or township to certify that by January 1, 2012, it has a plan with 1 or more proposals to increase its existing level of cooperation, collaboration, and consolidation, either within the jurisdiction or with other jurisdictions. A plan shall include a listing of any previous services consolidated with the cost savings realized from each consolidation and an estimate of the potential savings for any new service consolidations being planned. A plan shall be made readily available to the public. Each city, village, and township applying for a payment under this subdivision shall submit a copy of the cooperation, collaboration, and consolidation plan to the department of treasury by January 1, 2012.

(c) Category 3, employee compensation, requires each eligible city, village, or township to certify that by May 1, 2012, it has developed and publicized an employee compensation plan that the city, village, or township intends to implement with any new, modified, or extended contract or employment agreements for employees not covered under contract or employment agreement. The employee compensation plan that each city, village, or township plans to achieve shall be made available for public viewing in the city, village, or township clerk's office or posted on a publicly accessible Internet site and must be submitted to the department of treasury by May 1, 2012. At a minimum, the employee compensation plan shall include the following:

(i) New hires who are eligible for retirement plans are placed on retirement plans that cap annual employer contributions at 10% of base salary for employees who are eligible for social security benefits. For employees who are not eligible for social security benefits, the annual employer contribution is capped at 16.2% of base salary.

(ii) For defined benefit pension plans, a maximum multiplier of 1.5% for all employees who are eligible for social security benefits, except, where postemployment health care is not provided, the maximum multiplier shall be 2.25%. For all employees who are not eligible for social security benefits, a maximum multiplier of 2.25%, except, where postemployment health care is not provided, the maximum multiplier shall be 3.0%.

(iii) For defined benefit pension plans, final average compensation for all employees is calculated using a minimum of 3 years of compensation and shall not include more than a total of 240 hours of paid leave. Overtime hours shall not be used in computing the final average compensation for an employee.

(iv) Health care premium costs for new hires shall include a minimum employee share of 20%; or, an employer's share of the local health care plan costs shall be cost competitive with the new state preferred provider organization health plan, on a per-employee basis.

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(4) Economic vitality incentive program payments are subject to the following conditions:

(a) In order for a city, village, or township to qualify for a category under subsection (3)(a), (b), or (c), the city, village, or township shall meet every criteria for that category including a certification to the department that it has met the required criteria for that category and submission of the required citizen's guide and performance dashboard; cooperation, collaboration, and consolidation plan; or the employee compensation plan as required by subsection (3)(a), (b), or (c), respectively. A department of treasury review of the citizen's guide, dashboard, or plan is not required in order for a city, village, or township to receive a payment under subsection (2). The department shall develop a certification process and method for cities, villages, and townships to follow.

(b) For each category that a city, village, or township qualifies for in subsection (3), the city, village, or township shall receive 1/3 of its potential economic vitality incentive program payment amount calculated in subsection (2).

(c) Payments under this section shall be issued to cities, villages, and townships for each category in subsection (3) until the specified due date for the category. After the specified due date for the category, payments shall be made to a city, village, or township only if that city, village, or township has complied with subdivision (a).

(d) If a city, village, or township does not provide the required certification or fails to submit the required citizen's guide and performance dashboard; cooperation, collaboration, and consolidation plan; and the employee compensation plan by the first day of a payment month, the city, village, or township shall forfeit the payment in that payment month for the uncertified category in subsection (3).

(e) Any local unit that falsifies certification documents shall forfeit any future economic vitality incentive program payments and shall repay this state all economic vitality incentive program payments it has received.

(f) Payments under this section shall be distributed on the last business day of October, December, February, April, June, and August.

(g) Payments distributed under this section may be withheld pursuant to sections 17a and 21 of the Glenn Steil state revenue sharing act of 1971, 1971 PA 140, MCL 141.917a and 141.921.

(5) The unexpended funds appropriated in this section for the economic vitality incentive program are designated as work project appropriations and any unencumbered or unallotted funds shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year and shall continue to be available for expenditure for projects under subsection (1) until the projects have been completed. The following is in compliance with section 451a of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a:

(a) The purpose of the projects is to provide incentive-based grants to recipients under subsection (1).

(b) The projects will be accomplished by grants to qualified governmental units.

(c) The total estimated cost of all projects is \$215,000,000.00.

(d) The tentative completion date is September 30, 2016.