

MUSKEGON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY BOARD CONTRIBUTION POLICY

POLICY NO. 2015-10

APPROVAL DATE: JANUARY 5, 2015

I. POLICY

It is the general policy of the County Board of Commissioners that Muskegon County will not provide funds for community events, as funds collected by the County are taxpayer funds intended for County governmental purposes only. While there are many worthy causes to which County funds could be allocated, the County Board of Commissioners will only appropriate funds for purposes that are authorized by Michigan statute. This policy is intended to define the permitted purposes and procedures required for the County to allocate funds to any community public purpose. If a request for County funds does not adhere to this policy, the County Board of Commissioners will not appropriate funds for that request.

All recipients of funds will be required to submit an application and execute a contract with the County of Muskegon. Recipient shall also be required to report to the County Board of Commissioners regarding its activities and the degree to which the recipient has met the stated public purpose of the funding. The report may be either presented at a Board meeting or in writing, at the Board's discretion.

Any organization requesting and receiving funds shall provide to the County Board an accounting of the use of any funds received under this policy. The timing of this accounting shall be specified in the resolution authorizing the appropriation.

Generally, funds will only be approved for statutorily authorized purposes, which include, but are not limited to:

- A. Economic Development
- B. Promotion of Tourism
- C. Contributions Specifically Authorized by Statute

II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. Economic Development Grants From Federal or State Governments

1. The County may grant or loan funds derived from a federal or state grant or the proceeds of such a grant, that have been received by the County for the purposes of economic development, to a city, village, township, corporation or other business association or private person, unless the grant or loan is prohibited by the terms of the state or federal grant. These funds may only be appropriated for the purpose of encouraging and assisting businesses to locate and expand within the county.
2. These funds may only be derived from a grant, not from the County general fund.
3. A grant under this section may only be made after a public hearing of the County Board. The public shall be given the opportunity for comment on a grant at the public hearing.

B. Economic Development Grants From the County

1. The County may provide grants or loans to a city, village or township within Muskegon County for the purpose of encouraging and assisting businesses to locate and expand within the County.
2. A grant under this section may not be derived from ad valorem taxes unless it is from ad valorem taxes approved by a vote of the people for economic development.
3. Any other grant by the County Board for economic development shall designate the fund from which the grant or loan is derived.
4. A grant may be made by the County Board only after a public hearing, with the opportunity for public comment.
5. An applicant for a grant or a loan shall be required to complete an application on a form approved by the Board. The application shall be reviewed at the public hearing.

III. TOURISM

- A. The County Board may appropriate funds from the accommodations tax for the purpose of promotion and encouragement of tourist and convention business in the County. No ad valorem tax revenues may be used for this purpose.
- B. Funds derived from the accommodations tax may only be used for the promotion and encouragement of tourist and convention business in the County including but not limited to, advertising and marketing.
- C. Any request for funds under this section shall require an application in a form approved by the County Board.
- D. Approval of an application under this section shall be at a public hearing, with opportunity for public comment.

IV. SPECIFIED STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION

In some cases, there are specific statutes which authorize the expenditure of general fund revenue on community events. If an organization is relying on a specific statute in connection with its request, the specific statute should be identified as part of its request.

- A. Statutory Grant or Loan
 - 1. The County may provide a grant or loan when specifically authorized by statute.
 - 2. An organization seeking a grant or loan under this subsection must identify the authorizing statute.
 - 3. Any request for funds under this section shall require an application in a form approved by the County Board.
 - 4. Approval of an application under this section shall be at a public hearing, with opportunity for public comment.

V. PROCEDURE

In order for any organization or local unit to receive funds from the County of Muskegon, they must comply with the procedure shown below.

- A. All requests for contributions, grants or loans from the County of Muskegon, must be submitted on an application form provided by the County at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date the funds will be needed, in order to allow for staff review and a public hearing.
- B. After the application is reviewed and if it is recommended by staff, a public hearing will be scheduled at a meeting of the Muskegon County Ways and Means Committee.

VI. TERM

This Policy shall expire on odd numbered years on the same date as the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners' annual Organizational Meeting.

CERTIFICATION:

Motion by Commissioner Cross, second by Commissioner Hughes, to adopt the foregoing policy at the Organizational Meeting of the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners held January 5, 2015 at 4:00 PM.

AYES: Rillastine Wilkins, Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Jeff Lohman, Kenneth Mahoney, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo

NAYS: None.

EXCUSED: Robert Scolnik

I, Nancy A. Waters, Clerk of Muskegon County, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a policy adopted by the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners at the January 5, 2015, Organizational Meeting, in testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my office this 5th day of January 2015.



Nancy A. Waters, County Clerk