

FMWF CHAMBER  
GOOD JOBS CHALLENGE GRANT REQUEST

**SUGGESTED MOTION:**

Authorize Cass County to serve as a co-applicant with the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce for the EDA's Good Jobs Challenge grant.

## **Good Jobs Challenge | Getting Americans Back to Work**

The Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with non-profit, education, and industry organizations are pursuing a Good Jobs Challenge Grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Chamber is requesting Cass County join in as a co-applicant.

### **What is the Good Jobs Challenge?**

The Good Jobs Challenge is designed to get Americans back to work. By bringing together employers who have hiring needs and key education partners, systems and partnerships will be strengthened or built that will train workers with in-demand skills that will lead to good-paying jobs.

These partnerships will develop systems and partnerships to create and implement industry-led training programs designed to provide skills for, and connect, unemployed or underemployed workers to existing and emerging job opportunities. Ultimately, the partnership will train workers with the skills needed to secure a quality job that provides good pay, benefits, and growth opportunities.

### **What individuals will this grant be serving?**

The Good Jobs Challenge is designed to create a pipeline of unemployed or underemployed individuals from across the region, provide them with the necessary skills and training, and connect them to employers to be hired into “good jobs”.

Although the grant is designed to target anyone unemployed or underemployed, we will be focusing specifically on developing a pipeline within the following population (1) Recently Released Incarcerated (2) New Americans (3) Veterans/Active Military (4) High School students.

### **Who are the Fargo/Moorhead Metro community partners?**

The Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce will serve as the “back-bone” entity between industry collaboratives, education and non-profit partners. Employers with hiring needs within the industries of (1) Cybersecurity/IT (2) Advanced Manufacturing and (3) Agriculture will develop regional collaboratives and partner directly with the following education partners to provide the necessary skill training (1) North Dakota State College of Science (2) University of Mary (3) Emerging Digital Academy/Grand Farm. Non-profit partners serving the above populations will help to identify pipelines to go through the education/training programs.

### **How does the community-wide partnership work?**

Through bringing together partners from the public, private, non-profit, and education sectors, we will help individuals be placed into good jobs through the following process:

1. Non-profit organizations, working closely with the populations they serve, identify individuals who lack a “good job” and connect them to the appropriate education institution,
2. The “Education Navigators”, employed by the education partners, then help these individuals navigate through their training/education program,
  1. While in the training/education program, individuals may receive financial assistance for “wrap around” services.
3. Following the completion of the training/education program, the individual is then connected to employer partners for either (1) a work-and-learn hire (2) a conditional hire (3) a direct hire.

**Why does The Chamber need Cass County’s commitment to be a co-applicant?**

The Chamber has only begun to leverage the 501(c)3 Foundation affiliated with our organization. Since the EDA is looking for applicants, or co-application partners, who have proven experience with large budgets, working closely with multiple partners across the region, and have the expertise necessary to administer a grant of this size, it is critical that Cass County be involved.

**What is required of the County to be a co-applicant?**

As a co-applicant, the requirements on the County are very minimal. These requirements are:

- a. If successful, Cass County will jointly manage, alongside The Chamber, the financial aspects of the grant.
  - i. The Chamber will be responsible for all reporting requirements.
- b. Complete the following forms, alongside The Chamber:
  - i. Form SF-424 | Application for Federal Assistance
  - ii. Form SF-424A | Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs
  - iii. Form CD-511 | Certification Regarding Lobbying
  - iv. Project Narrative | Provided by The Chamber
  - v. Alignment with Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) | Provided by The Chamber
  - vi. Budget Narrative and Staffing Plan | Provided by The Chamber
  - vii. Letters of Support from Stakeholders | Provided by The Chamber

**Is there any risk on the County for being involved and is there a financial request of the County?**

No, to both questions. There is no risk. There is no financial request of the county to submit the grant application, beyond the time it would take the individuals to complete the above forms.