



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Board of Directors

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: June 3, 2016

RE: **Resolution 2016-012: Cuyahoga County Regional Benefit Account Agreement Modification**

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board is asked to approve this item. Specifically, this action would approve an extension and revision to Cuyahoga County's 2011 Regional Benefit Account (RBA) agreement.

The Executive Committee recommends this action.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

The Regional Benefit Account (RBA) was established via Resolution 2009-016 in June 2009. Cuyahoga County received an RBA allocation in 2011 (Res. 2011-031) for \$34,130 to study the possible merger of Pepper Pike, Orange, Moreland Hills, and Woodmere. The study, which did not result in the merger of the mentioned communities, only expended \$10,000 of the award. The County recently contacted us and requested (attached) that it be permitted to spend the remaining funds on the following efforts:

- Fire Regionalization
- Transportation Projects
- Conferences/Seminars on Regional Collaboration

The RBA policy as adopted in 2009 is reproduced below for the committee's review.

1. PURPOSES

The Regional Benefit Account (RBA) is designed to provide limited funding for regionally important studies and planning efforts that advance NOACA's mission and are consistent with its responsibilities and authority. RBA funds may be awarded for transportation, environmental and regional development planning, studies and collaborative efforts.

RBA funds cannot be used for:

- Projects or programs that are determined to be inconsistent with NOACA's mission, principles, goals and policies.
- Preliminary engineering, construction, or activities ordinarily funded with federal aid through NOACA's standard processes.

2. FUNDING SOURCE, AVAILABILITY AND MANAGEMENT

The source of the RBA account is NOACA's Reserve Account.

- While developing the Agency's annual budget, the Executive Director will review the status of the Reserve Account (RA). In coordination with the Director of Finance, the Executive Director will review the needs and uses of the RA based upon projected federal and state funding, Overall Work Program needs and fiscal conditions. The Executive Director will report the RA assessment to the Executive Committee.
- The Executive Committee will determine if sufficient RA funds are available to open the RBA account for applications for the upcoming fiscal year.
- In years it is available, RBA funding is capped annually at 75% of the interest earned during the previous fiscal year. Any funds that remain will be deposited into the RA so the principal may increase.
- An award or awards can be made for any sum, up to and including the annual cap.
- If awards are made that total less than the annual cap, the excess does not carry forward but reverts to the principal balance of the RA.

3. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

Eligible applicants for RBA funds include Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina counties.

4. LIMIT ON AWARDS:

Applicants are limited to one RBA grant every three years, or as determined by funding availability.

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

Successful applications for RBA funds must:

- Demonstrate a regional benefit.
- Demonstrate ability to complete the project/program within three years.
- Include a detailed description of the planned activity, including approximate timelines, deliverables, and budget.
- Describe the sources of other funding for the planned activity, if any.

6. "RBA" AGREEMENT AND REPORTING

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a NOACA "Regional Benefit Account (RBA) Agreement" and report to NOACA on the use of funds when at the end of a three-year period or when the study is completed, whichever is sooner. If not spent after three years, all unused funds must be returned to NOACA for placement in the Reserve Account.

7. PROCESS

The process for a RBA award follows:

- a) Applicant submits a completed application form to NOACA during the annual application cycle.
- b) NOACA staff reviews the RBA application.
 1. The Executive Director will inform the Executive Committee of applications.
 2. The Executive Director, in coordination with the Executive Committee will determine if any other standing committee, subcommittee, or advisory council review is needed.
- c) Applicant makes presentation and provides additional information to Executive Committee, if requested.
- d) Executive Committee recommends advancing the application to the Board for review.
- e) NOACA Governing Board approves or disapproves application.

- f) If application is approved, applicant signs RBA Agreement.
- g) RBA funds are disbursed from NOACA upon signed Agreement and appropriate approval.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If recommended, there is no financial impact to this action.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Pending Board approval, Cuyahoga County would initiate the newly proposed efforts.

GG/bd/2904b



DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL COLLABORATION

April 11, 2016

Ms. Grace Gallucci
Executive Director
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
1299 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Ms. Gallucci:

The Cuyahoga County Department of Regional Collaboration is requesting to retain the \$24,130 balance of a \$34,000 grant for the current biennial budget cycle (FY2016-FY2017). The NOACA grant was given for purposes relating to the Merger Study (Orange Village, Village of Pepper Pike, Village of Moreland Hills, & the Village of Woodmere) and other purposes and initiatives that promote regional collaboration. Approximately, \$10,000 was used towards the Merger Study. The Department of Regional Collaboration plans on using the money for the following ideas:

- Fire Regionalization – Research and work towards establishing regional fire districts
- Transportation Projects
- Conferences/Seminars on Regional Collaboration –Professional Development

We believe that this will fulfill the intent of the funds and will be executed by the end of FY 2017. For any questions, please feel free to contact Karlton Laster, Special Assistant for Regional Collaboration at 216-698-2634 or klaster@cuyahogacounty.us. Thank you for the consideration.

Very truly yours,

Edward H. Kraus
Director, Department of Regional Collaboration, Cuyahoga County

**RESOLUTION 2016-012
(CUYAHOGA COUNTY REGIONAL BENEFIT ACCOUNT
AGREEMENT MODIFICATION)**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina, and the areawide water quality management agency for the same region; and

WHEREAS, NOACA established the Regional Benefit Account (RBA) in 2009 to provide assistance to local planning efforts when interest on NOACA investments was sufficient to cover their costs; and

WHEREAS, NOACA awarded an RBA grant in the amount of 34,130 to Cuyahoga County in 2011 for the study of possible merger of Pepper Pike, Orange, Moreland Hills, and Woodmere; and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County expended \$10,000 on the merger study; and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County has requested to retain the remaining \$24,130 for use on the following efforts:

- Fire Regionalization
- Transportation Projects
- Conferences/Seminars on Regional Collaboration; and

WHEREAS, this will require an amendment of the original RBA agreement with Cuyahoga County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, consisting of 45 principal officials serving general purpose local governments throughout and within the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina that:

Section 1: The Executive Director is authorized to amend the 2011 RBA agreement with Cuyahoga County to allow remaining funds to be used for the requested uses.;

Section 2: The Executive Director is authorized to transmit certified copies of this resolution to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency adopted this 10th day of June 2016.

Secretary: _____

Date Signed: _____

6/10/16

