AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Request for Funding; Western State Colorado Univer

Action Requested: Motion

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Implementation of the ICE Project is a high priority action in both the OVPP plan and the implementation of OVPP is a strategic result in the Gunnison County Strategic Plan

Fiscal Impact: $20,000

Submitted by: Russell Forrest on behalf of WSCU **Submitter's Email Address:** rforrest@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: (●) Required ( ) Not Required

Comments:
$44,500 remaining 2016 budget in Contributions - Economic Development account

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\lNienhueser Discharge Date: 8/10/2016

County Attorney Review: ( ) Required (●) Not Required

Comments:

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ( ) No ( )

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 8/10/2016

( ) Consent Agenda (●) Regular Agenda ( ) Worksession Time Allotted: 15 minutes

Agenda Date: 8/16/2016

Revised April 2015

August 8, 2016

In building upon the early collaborations between Gunnison County and Western State Colorado University, the *Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship (ICE) Project* is requesting support from Gunnison County in the amount of **$20,000**. The ICE Project's funds request is to support two key initiatives that contribute to specific economic development goals of Gunnison County as outlined in the One Valley Prosperity Draft Strategy (May 2016).

1. **Support New Entrepreneurs and Grow Existing Businesses**

   The ICE Project (in collaboration with Gunnison County, the Gunnison-Crested Butte Tourism Association, and other regional stakeholders) is seeking $10,000 to develop ***digital collateral to promote Gunnison County as "open for business"***. This collateral will include a website, unique multi-media content, and access to all the necessary information for businesses and entrepreneurs to establish or expand a presence in Gunnison County. This site will also be an innovative and engaging clearinghouse of information for current and prospective investors into our regional economy. WSCU has requested additional funds for this initiative from the EDA's Power Grant program in the amount of $20,000. These additional resources will be used to create more current and relevant content for the site over the next three years.

   "Entrepreneurship is a key component of a strong economic foundation —it provides vitality and resiliency to the economy, creates jobs, and encourages the generation and sharing of new ideas. To develop more primary employers which provide economic diversity and career opportunities we are most likely to succeed through the development of business start-ups and local business growth." (OVPS, 2016, p.20)

2. **Build the Capacity of the Local Workforce**

   The ICE Project (in collaboration with Gunnison County and the West-Central Small Business Development Center) is seeking $10,000 to deliver a monthly training and ***capacity building event series for the Gunnison County business community***, workforce, and nascent entrepreneurial base. Leveraging the vast professional and technical resources of the SBDC network and WSCU faculty, and in collaboration with Gunnison County leadership, the ICE Project will design and execute programs determined to be of high value to our region's entrepreneurs and small businesses. Examples of such programs may include, but are not limited to, professional development workshops, business startup trainings, investor/entrepreneur speed dating events, acceleration/incubation programs, youth entrepreneurship initiatives, and much more. Currently the West-Central SBDC receives funds in the same amount from Chaffee County for training and capacity initiatives and works directly with Region 10 to deliver similar programming in Delta, Montrose, San Miguel, and Ouray Counties.

"While we do have an educated community, local youth and many adults still need opportunities for professional development and our local businesses have shortages of skilled workers. We need to align the creation of new jobs with job training so locals can take advantage of new employment opportunities." (OVPS, 2016, p.21)

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of our shared mission of community and economic development in Gunnison County.

Kind Regards,

Gerrit J. McGowan - Managing Director,
ICE Project / Director, West Central SBDC