



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

ADA TOWNSHIP • ALGOMA TOWNSHIP • ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP • ALPINE TOWNSHIP • BELDING • BYRON TOWNSHIP • CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP • CANNON TOWNSHIP • CASCADE TOWNSHIP • CEDAR SPRINGS COOPERSVILLE • COURTLAND TOWNSHIP • EAST GRAND RAPIDS • GAINES TOWNSHIP • GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP • GRAND RAPIDS • GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP • GRANDVILLE • GREENVILLE HASTINGS • HUDSONVILLE • IONIA • JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP • KENT COUNTY • KENTWOOD • LOWELL • MIDDLEVILLE • OTTAWA COUNTY • PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP • ROCKFORD SAND LAKE • TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP • WALKER • WAYLAND • WYOMING

**A Resolution In Support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Participation in the Regional Prosperity Alliance Phase IV 2017**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 3 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, as well as many Economic Development, Community Development and Non-Profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 country region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance, and,

WHEREAS, The above mentioned partners have completed Phase III of the Regional Prosperity Initiative with exceptional cooperation and collaboration with their efforts recognized statewide.

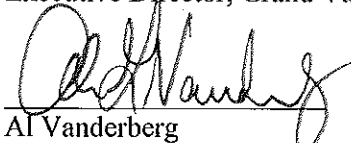
Now Therefore Be It Resolved that, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Board of Directors hereby endorses our participation in the Regional Prosperity Initiative and,

Be It Further Resolved that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council is honored and pleased to provide leadership in this regional venture by submitting the grant application on behalf of our West Michigan Region.

Approved on November 3, 2016 by the Board of Directors of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

  
John W. Weiss  
Executive Director, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

November 3, 2016  
Date

  
Al Vanderberg  
Chair, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

November 3, 2016  
Date



# Muskegon Community College

November 2, 2016

John W. Weiss, Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of Muskegon Community College in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for a fourth year of funding for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The college has been an active partner in the Regional Prosperity Initiative project for West Michigan that got underway over the last year. Dan Rinsema-Sybenga, our Dean of Academic Affairs, serves on the steering committee and the college was honored to host the steering committee in the past.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies.

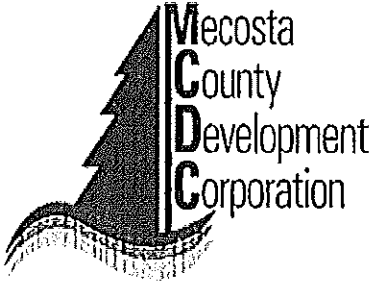
Having been part of the process over the last three years we can definitely say that these goals are being accomplished in West Michigan and that communication and regionalization has made great strides under the Regional Prosperity Initiative. The plan that the region has worked on resulted in many project submissions that would be helpful for the future of the West Michigan Region. The funding and furtherance of the project selected in the region has been a good step forward. We were honored this past year to be a project applicant on a now underway project to align skilled trade curriculums across the four community colleges located in Region 4.

Therefore, we continue to support the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and with this letter confirm our support of the Grand Valley Metro Council applying for further funding for this project. As an institution of higher education, we believe we can benefit by collaborating with our partners and other organizations in the region to better serve our constituents, which the Regional Prosperity Initiative is addressing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Nesbary', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Dale Nesbary  
President, Muskegon Community College



[www.mecostaedc.com](http://www.mecostaedc.com)

James M. Sandy, President

246 N. State Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307 ph: (231)592-3403 email: jsandy@co.mecosta.mi.us

**MECOSTA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**REGIONAL PROSPERITY INITIATIVE**

**RESOLUTION**

Resolution adopted by the Mecosta County Development Corporation at its regularly scheduled Executive Committee Meeting of November 10, 2016:

**WHEREAS**, in 2012 the State of Michigan formed a Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee to plan for improving collaboration between Michigan's Regional Planning Agencies, Work Force Development Agencies, Adult Education Providers, Transportation Officials, Economic Development Agencies, and other agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, in August 2013 the Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee introduced the Regional Prosperity Initiative that includes ten new Prosperity Regions, and various levels of funding to enhance collaboration and to develop a Five Year Regional Prosperity Plan for each of Michigan's ten Prosperity Regions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Region 4 Prosperity Alliance, which includes the thirteen counties of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, and Ottawa has been formed; and

**WHEREAS**, representatives from these thirteen counties have successfully joined together, organized and identified projects that impact region; and

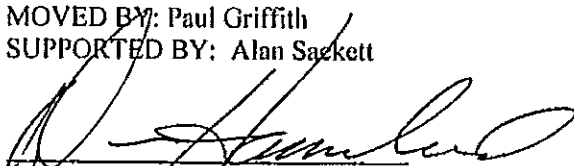
**WHEREAS**, the representatives believe that the initiative has even greater potential for working together in a collaborative way; and

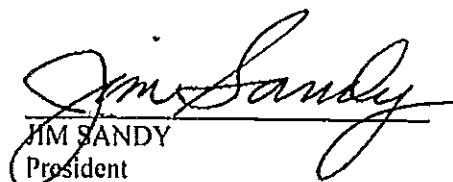
**WHEREAS**, representatives remain committed to the initiative;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mecosta County Development Corporation continues to support the Regional Prosperity Initiative and agrees to support the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council as the grant applicant; and

**FURTHERMORE**, the Mecosta County Development Corporation designates James M. Sandy, President, as the organization's representative and authorizes his participation in the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

MOVED BY: Paul Griffith  
SUPPORTED BY: Alan Sackett

  
DAVE HAMELUND  
Chairperson

  
JIM SANDY  
President

November 10, 2016  
Date

November 10, 2016  
Date



## PADNOS

Recycling the world over, and over®

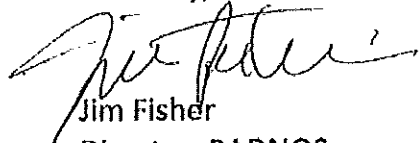
November 23, 2016

West Michigan Prosperity Alliance  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Avenue NW  
Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

To whom it may concern:

PADNOS, a 110 year old scrap metal, paper and plastic recycling company with facilities throughout Northern, Western, and Southwestern Michigan, fully supports the work of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. We have a long history of collaborating in both our industry and the communities we serve, and we look forward to identifying and finding solutions for any areas that will promote the economic, environmental and social prosperity of our 13 county West Michigan Region.

Sincerely,



Jim Fisher  
Director, PADNOS

WEST SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

3000 N. Stiles Road | PO Box 277 | Scottville, Michigan 49454-0277

231-845-6211 | 800-848-9722 | www.westshore.edu



YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

1967-2017

November 28, 2016

John W. Weiss, Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

I am writing on behalf of West Shore Community College in support of the grant application for another year of funding for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

West Shore Community College has been a partner in the Regional Prosperity Initiative project since its implementation. As an institution of higher education, we strongly believe in the value that it brings to our area, which is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, workforce development, education, planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies.

Please accept this letter as our endorsement for the application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative. If you have any questions, please contact my office at (231) 843-5802.

With warm regard,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth E. Urban', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kenneth E. Urban, Ed.D.  
President

# Holland/Zeeland Model Community Initiatives

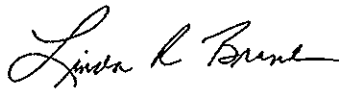
11/25/16

John W. Weiss  
Regional Prosperity Initiative  
Region 4 Chairperson

Dear John,

This letter confirms that as the Executive Director of the Holland/Zeeland Model Community Initiatives, we have been involved in the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) process and will continue to participate during 2017. We appreciate the work of all those in our region who are contributing time and talent to this effort.

Please contact me with any questions.



Linda R, Brand  
Executive Director  
Holland/Zeeland Model Community Initiatives  
616-836-1570  
[lrbrand@me.com](mailto:lrbrand@me.com)

cc: James F. Brooks

Allegan Public Schools

Learning Center *A Pathway to Success*



## Allegan Online & Adult Education

Brenda Nyhof, Director  
Online & Adult Education  
bnyhof@alleganps.org 269-673-5431 ext 3022

Allegan Public Schools  
550 Fifth St \* Allegan, MI 49010

November 28, 2016

Mr. John Weiss  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Ave. NW Ste. 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Mr. Weiss,

Allegan Adult Education/Allegan Public Schools (AAE/APS) is pleased to continue its affiliation with the Regional Prosperity Alliance (RPI) for the 2017 program year. Through the leadership provided by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC), the RPI remains an effective and responsive implementation of Governor Snyder's vision for regional prosperity initiatives.

AAE/APS is fully supportive of the efforts of the RPI to integrated the adult education services of West Michigan into the fabric that will improve the region's economic and quality of life vitality. An educated population improves the quality of life in our communities.

The role that the Grand Valley Metropolitan council has played in interpreting the vision of regional prosperity has been vital to the successes we have seen to date. The GVMC staff facilitates the growth of relationships that are needed to help make the changes necessary.

Sincerely,

Brenda Nyhof  
Director Allegan Adult Education



November 22, 2016

John W. Weiss  
Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance  
678 Front Ave. Ste 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Re: Letter of Support for FY 17 Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Weiss:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the FY 2017 Grant Application Program. Since this program started, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance has established a process for identifying, prioritizing and implementing projects of regional significance that in my opinion is the envy of the statewide RPI community. It has been my pleasure to serve as a member of the Alliance and I would be happy to continue to do so under your thoughtful and principled leadership.

Please let me know how I can be of additional assistance in helping this region achieve our vision for this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger L. Safford", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Roger L. Safford  
Senior Project Manager  
Associate Vice President





November 22, 2016

John W. Weiss, Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I am writing on behalf of Grand Valley State University in support of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Over the last year, the leadership Grand Valley Metropolitan Council has provided has been impressive. It is no small task to convene representatives from a 13 county area from various sectors, including workforce development, government, education and private industry. The conversations have been collaborative and relevant, resulting in a coordinated approach to building and sustaining the vitality of West Michigan.

Although much has been accomplished, there is great opportunity to build upon the existing and expanded collaborations that have been developed over the past year. Continued funding will allow us to further develop strategies and leverage resources, to the benefit of our communities.

Sincerely,

Simone Jonaitis, PhD  
Executive Director  
Center for Adult & Continuing Studies  
Grand Valley State University



November 21, 2016

Mr. John Weiss, Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Avenue, NE, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Re: 2017 Regional Prosperity Alliance Application

Dear John:

The Right Place, Inc. supports the preparation and submission of an application requesting \$250,000 grant funding to continue this regional collaborative during 2017.

The grant funding, if approved, will be used to improve the economy of West Michigan through strategies and projects involving infrastructure, workforce and talent development, and economic development. These activities will complement the work of The Right Place.

Rick Chapla, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives will continue to serve on the Steering and Executive Committees as our representative to continue the momentum of the initiative during 2017.

Sincerely,

Birgit M. Klohs  
President & CEO



904 Oak Drive  
Greenville, MI  
48838  
P:616.754.9315  
TTY:711  
F:616.754.9310  
www.eightcap.org

November 21, 2016

Mr. John Weiss, Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Ave. NW, Ste. 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Mr. Weiss:

On behalf of EightCAP, I would like to thank you and the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance for the opportunity to be a part of the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance Steering Team. Please accept this letter as our organization's support for the 2017 Region 4 Regional Prosperity Initiative Application. EightCAP looks forward to being a part of the planning initiatives and projects that are embodied in this application.

If EightCAP can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Daniel Petersen'.

Daniel Petersen  
President



A proud partner of the American Job Center network

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

Area Community Services  
Employment & Training Council  
1550 Leonard NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
(616) 336-4100

**SERVICE CENTERS**

**Allegan County**  
3255 122nd Ave  
Allegan, MI 49010  
(269) 686-5079

220 East Main St  
Fennville, MI 49408  
(269) 561-2001

**Barry County**  
535 W Woodlawn Ave  
Hastings, MI 49058  
(269) 945-9545 ext. 144

**Ionia County**  
301 W Main St  
Ionia, MI 48846  
(616) 389-8525

**Kent County**  
121 Franklin SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 40507  
(616) 336-4040

215 Straight Ave NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
(616) 336-4460

36 Applewood Dr  
Sparta, MI 49345  
(616) 887-2791

**Montcalm County**  
114 S Greenville W Dr  
Greenville, MI 48838  
(616) 754-3611

**Muskegon County**  
316 Morris Ave  
Muskegon, MI 49440  
(231) 724-6381

**Ottawa County**  
121 Clover St  
Holland, MI 49423  
(616) 396-2154

John Weiss  
Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
678 Front Ave. Ste 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

It has been my pleasure to serve as Vice-Chair for the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance (Region 4). As a member of the Steering Committee, we prepared a 5-year plan that will identify efforts to improve the economic competitiveness of the region. We have funded a number of initiatives that will have a positive impact on the entire West Michigan region.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative has allowed greater regional collaboration among the many organizations that impact economic development efforts. This initial planning effort set the stage for an even bigger impact in the future; involving private sector interests that need to embrace and support initiatives such as RPI as essential to their economic success.

Please accept this letter as confirmation of West Michigan Works! support of the fourth round of grant applications. We have accomplished much since our initial meetings and the continuation of the initiative will benefit the whole region.

If there is anything else you need, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Jacob Maas  
Chief Executive Officer  
Area Community Services Employment & Training Council (ACSET)  
1550 Leonard NE | Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
(616) 336-4128



Steven C. Ender, Ed.D.  
President

November 17, 2016

Gayle L. McCrath  
Director of Human Resources & Administration  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Ave. NW Ste. 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Gayle,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. Grand Rapids Community College is a committed partner in the effort to bring representatives of adult education, workforce, economic development, transportation and higher education together to share issues of regional importance that will surely help us achieve our goals for greater regional economic prosperity.

GRCC wholeheartedly endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. Please feel free to contact me directly should you need anything.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Ender, Ed.D  
President



143 Bostwick Avenue, NE • Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-3295 • ph: (616) 234-3901 • fax: (616) 234-2262 • [www.grcc.edu](http://www.grcc.edu)

VISION • As a college of distinction, GRCC inspires students to meet the needs of the community and the world.  
MISSION • GRCC is an open access college that prepares individuals to attain their goals and contribute to the community.



Muskegon Area First  
380 W. Western, Suite 202  
Muskegon, MI 49440  
(231) 724-3172 ext. 1  
(231) 728-7251 fax  
muskegonareafirst.org

November 14, 2016

John W. Weiss, Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Avenue NE, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

This letter is to indicate that Muskegon Area First (a county-wide economic development corporation) is in full support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for additional funding from the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

As a member of the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance steering committee, our agency worked to ensure that our Regional Prosperity Plan was developed with a high level of participation from all 13 counties represented by the Alliance, and that the projects identified would enhance our long-term economic viability.

We intend to continue with our participation in the Prosperity Alliance as we move forward with the implementation of our Prosperity Plan because of its importance to our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward L. Garner".

Edward L. Garner  
President & CEO



**Macatawa Area  
Coordinating Council**

*A Cooperative Effort Among Units of Government*

Policy Board

Howard Baumann, Jr.

Joseph Baumann

Thomas Bird

Nancy DeBoer

Ken DeWeerd

Terry Hofmeyer

Gerald Hunsburger

John Kleinheksel

Kevin Klynstra

♦ Bla'ne Kooops

John Lanum

♦ Hannes Meyers, Jr.

Terry Nienhuis

Glenn Nykamp

♦ Pankaj Rejaadhyaksha, Chair

Jim Storey

Russ Te Slaa

♦ David Van Ginhoven

Todd Wolters

♦ Executive Committee

November 16, 2016

John Weiss  
Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Avenue NW, Ste. 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John,

The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council is pleased to provide this letter in support of the application for FY 2017 funding from the Regional Prosperity Initiative. The West Michigan Prosperity Alliance (Region 4) has made significant progress helping to promote regional prosperity and collaboration through the resources provided from previous grants. The current application will help us continue our efforts.

Thanks for your leadership on this important initiative. There are still many more positive outcomes to achieve!

Sincerely,

Steve Bulthuis  
Executive Director  
Macatawa Area Coordinating Council



community foundation

Muskegon County

For good. For ever.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

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Asaline Scott  
*Vice Chair*

Dick L. Kamps, M.D.  
*Treasurer*

Chris A. McGuigan  
*President/Secretary*

Richard W. Peters, M.D.  
*Immediate Past Chair*

John W. Swanson II  
*Special Advisor*

DeAnna Burt-Johnson, Ph.D.

Jan L. Deur

Pat O Donahue

Wes Eklund

Amy Heisser

Charles E. Johnson, III

Marvin Nash

Dale K. Nesbary, Ph.D.

Katrina Olson, M.D.

Kay M. Olthoff

Michael S. Soimar

Roger Spoelman

Alan D. Steinman, Ph.D.

John M. Sytsema

Kathleen Torresen

Kathi A. Tyler

James L. Waters

Thomas G. Witt

November 14, 2016

Mr. John Weiss, Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Avenue, Ste. 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John:

I am writing to express the continued support of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County for the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). The work of the RPI has demonstrated the collaborative nature of our region, and our willingness to come together to accomplish good things in our region.

We also support the submission of a grant application which will provide funding from the State of Michigan to support our collaborative efforts.

I will continue to serve the RPI Steering Committee as a representative of the philanthropic community.

Best regards,

Bob Chapla  
Vice President, Development







November 14, 2016

Mr. John W. Weiss, Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
678 Front Ave, NE, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

Talent 2025 is proud to support the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance's (WMPA) prosperity initiative – a strong addition to the region's network of initiatives to create a vibrant regional economy.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative serves to increase alignment, create collaborative relationships, and establish communication within organizations involved in economic and workforce development, post-secondary education, transportation agencies, local and state government, and private and non-profit companies. In order to remain globally competitive, it is crucial that West Michigan and the State of Michigan be equipped to attract and retain world-class talent.

This year marks the second full year of performance for the organization. While numerous opportunities exist to create greater alignment and collaboration within the region, WMPA's efforts are commendable.

Talent 2025 is a catalyst for an aligned talent system for West Michigan. Composed of over 100 CEOs from the region's 13 counties, the organization strives to be a driving force for an ongoing supply of world-class talent by convening leaders and organizations that will improve the region's talent attraction, retention, and development efforts.

For these reasons, we believe supporting this initiative allows our region to become more responsive to the needs of businesses that support the region's economic growth. It is essential to ensure our finite resources are used wisely to enrich our expanding communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Stotts', is written above the typed name.

Kevin Stotts  
President

November 14, 2016

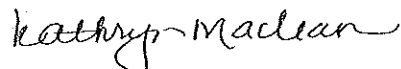
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
c/o John Weiss  
678 Front Ave. NW Ste. 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Mason County Growth Alliance and the Ludington & Scottville Area Chamber of Commerce I am writing to express support of the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance and Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's submittal of the 2017 grant request for Region 4.

I am honored to serve on the Steering Committee and to participate in the successful collaborative efforts of our region.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Maclean  
President/CEO



A proud partner of the American Job Center Network

LARRY EMIG  
Chair, Local Elected Officials  
DEBORAH SMITH-OLSON  
Chair, Workforce Development Board  
PAUL J. GRIFFITH  
Executive Director

www.michworks.org

231.796.4891 • Fax: 231.796.8316

Big Rapids, Michigan 49307

14330 Northland Drive

November 10, 2016

John W. Weiss, Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Subject: Regional Prosperity Initiative

Dear Mr. Weiss:

This letter is written in support of the collaborative grant application from the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance for the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

We have seen great new partnerships and collaboration developed among Steering Committee members. It's very exciting to see the types of projects that received funding and are moving forward, such as the Port of Muskegon Regional Logistics Hub and Connect Michigan, which we have been very involved with in our local communities. Just recently the membership funded a second phase for three of those projects and five new ones targeted to various facets of our region.

Serving the rural counties of Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Newaygo, Oceana and Osceola, Michigan Works! West Central has always been committed to improving regional employment conditions and enhancing the economic development of our region. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Griffith  
Executive Director

Our Mission: "To continually improve a Workforce Development System that produces a workforce with the required skills to attract, retain and expand business and enhance our regional economy."



November 8, 2016

Mr. John Weiss  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Ave. NW Ste. 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Mr. Weiss,

Orchard View Community Education (OVCE) is pleased to continue its affiliation with the Regional Prosperity Alliance (RPI) for the 2017 program year. Through the leadership provided by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC), The RPI remains an effective and responsive implementation of Governor Snyder's vision for regional prosperity initiatives.

OVCE is fully supportive of the efforts of the RPI to integrate the adult education services of West Michigan into the fabric that will improve the region's economic and quality of life vitality. We stand ready to discover ways we can even more fully involve the dedicated educators that serve our region in the adult education field.

The role that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council has played in interpreting the vision of regional prosperity has been vital to the successes we have seen to date. GVMC staff have proven to be adept at creating relationships that work and remaining sensitive to the "turf" issues such a monumental change will necessarily create.

Please let me know of ways I can be of future service to the goals and implementation of the RPI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Wood".

Doug Wood, Director  
Orchard View Community Education

*Orchard View Community Education –  
1765 Ada Street, Muskegon, MI 49442 – 231.760.1350*

ZEELAND ADULT EDUCATION

96 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St.  
Holland, MI 49423  
616-494-3416  
moconnor@zps.org

November 3, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the continuation of the Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative (MRPI) in which I will continue to participate as a member representing adult education in Region #4 which consists of 13 counties. This very important endeavor is key in developing educational and economic development partnerships which are vital in our region.

Since July, 2014, the Section 107 Adult Education state funding and the delivery of services has been legislated to operate on a regional basis with the Kent Intermediate School District serving as the fiscal agent for the 13 county region. The Zeeland Adult Education Program which I operate encompasses all of the school districts in Ottawa County as well as Fennville Adult Education in Allegan County. It also includes the Allegan County Correctional Facility and the Ottawa County Correctional Facility. It is imperative that the MRPI be funded for another year so that we may continue to form partnerships which support our regional plan which will result in a much more streamlined approach to life-long learning opportunities to meet the needs of residents and employers.

As a member of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance Steering Committee, I must applaud Mr. John Weiss, Chair, of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance for his leadership role in this process and recommend that he continue to serve in his role as Chair in leading the committee forward to accomplish its second year goals.

Sincerely,



Mike O'Connor, Director  
Zeeland Adult Education Consortium

**WMSRDC**  
WEST MICHIGAN SHORELINE  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

November 3, 2016

Mr. John W. Weiss, Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

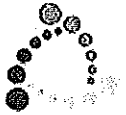
The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, as an active partner in the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance (Region 4), supports the grant application of the Grand Valley Metro Council for a fourth year of funding through the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative.

The level of communication, cooperation, and partnership gained in Region 4 over the past three years as a result of the Regional Prosperity Initiative, development of the Regional Prosperity Plan, and funding of priority projects is unprecedented. The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission looks forward to continuing our participation and partnership with Region 4 in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,



Erin Kuhn  
Executive Director



# GRAND RAPIDS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

November 3, 2016

Mr. John Weiss  
Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

On behalf of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, I write to support the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Collaboration, cooperation and public-private partnerships are hallmarks of the West Michigan community. To move our region forward, we need to continue work on efforts that move a comprehensive economic development strategy forward. This can only be realized when leaders in the business development, talent development and infrastructure development communities unite behind a common vision. The West Michigan Prosperity Alliance has made great strides in this effort and there is more to be done.

This effort is no small undertaking and it continues to pay dividends. Approval of this application will advance the workforce and economic development efforts already underway in West Michigan to help meet employer needs.

The Chamber is committed to this work in collaboration with our other community partners and we offer our strong support for Grand Valley Metro Council's application.

Sincerely,

Rick Baker  
President & CEO

111 Pearl St. NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
T 616.771.0300  
F 616.771.0318  
[www.grandrapids.org](http://www.grandrapids.org)



## LAKESHORE ADVANTAGE

201 W. Washington Ave. Loft 410  
Zeeland, Michigan 49464

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John W. Weiss, Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

Lakeshore Advantage presents this letter of endorsement in full support of your application to obtain grant funding from the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). The goal to establish stronger local and regional collaboration is an essential endeavor in supporting economic investment. At the same time, it leads to greater quality of place while increasing business and talent attraction.

As a member of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Collaborative Development Council, our organization is related to one of the five target groups identified by the RPI as a required participant. We appreciate the latitude the state has provided local leaders in developing the process they want to pursue in establishing stronger local and regional collaboration. We also want to thank the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council for their willingness to be the applicant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

We will continue to be actively engaged in this effort and hope the state fully funds the application.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Owens,  
President





1170 W. Southern Avenue  
Muskegon, MI. 49441  
Phone: 231-725-9499  
Fax: 231-722-1959

November 9, 2016

Gayle McGrath  
Director of Human Resources & Administration  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Ave. NW Ste. 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Gayle McCrath:

Muskegon Oceana Community Action Partnership (MOCAP) is pleased to support the application by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council to the 2017 Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding opportunity. MOCAP is supportive of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's efforts and involvement in the development of program expansion and their mission of advancements toward the current and future well-being of the community. Grand Valley Metropolitan Council recognizes the importance of bringing together public and private sectors cooperatively to promote a vibrant environmental, economic, and social impact.

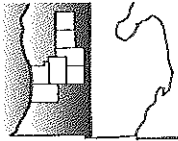
Muskegon Oceana Community Action Partnership (MOCAP) will work with the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council to promote their mission and serve on the steering committee.

We look forward to partnership with the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council and are in support of efforts toward program development, as well as community advancements, which promote prosperity in West Michigan.

Sincerely,

  
Kiesha Guy  
Executive Director  
MOCAP, Inc.

WMRPC



**WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

1345 Monroe Avenue NW • Suite 255 • Grand Rapids, MI 49505 • (616) 774-8400 • [www.wmrpc.org](http://www.wmrpc.org)

November 22, 2016

Mr. John W. Weiss, Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Avenue, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Subject: Letter of Support for Regional Prosperity Initiative

Dear Mr. Weiss,

The West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) supports the ongoing Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) and plans to participate in the 2017 program year. The WMRPC also supports the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council as the grant administrator for the 2017 program year.

I will continue serving on the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance (WMPA) Steering Committee as the representative for the WMRPC.

Sincerely,

Dave Bee, AICP  
Director

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*To assist planning efforts in community and economic development, provide a regional forum for sharing information and ideas, and promote cooperative solutions to regional issues.*