

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: June 18, 2025

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Celia Benton, Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: From the Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services requesting authorization to create a new bank account for receipt and disbursement of funds received from a WEDC grant for the Building Bridges Small Business Grant program.

POLICY

Milwaukee County Board review and approval is required for the creation of a separate bank account for the deposit and disbursement of funds under the Building Bridges grant program, pursuant to County ordinance 15.18.

BACKGROUND

File 24-938 – Approval for Economic Development to accept a \$200,000 Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation grant to create the Building Bridges Small Business Grant

In December 2024, DAS-Economic Development received authorization to receive grant funds from Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's Small Business Development Grant for the creation of the Building Bridges Small Business Grant. This fund will be used to disburse small grants of \$10,000 to local small businesses to help them secure and maintain brick-and-mortar businesses, while also helping to alleviate the concern of commercial real estate vacancies throughout the County. In the months since, the WEDC SBDG was awarded to Milwaukee County, and we have begun to accept applications from small businesses to receive grant funds.

One requirement of the WEDC grant is the creation of a separate, segregated account to receive grant funds from WEDC on a rolling basis, and to disburse to grant recipients as determined eligible. To facilitate a streamlined receipt and disbursement process, Economic Development is requesting the creation of an entirely separate bank account for these funds. After the completion of the Building Bridges grant program, this account could be used for other grant, loan, or other small business programs, as Economic Development intends to continue to pursue such opportunities to provide additional funds, guidance, and additional resources to local small businesses.

RECOMMENDATION

The Director of the Department of Administrative Services - Economic Development recommends authorization for the creation of a new bank account to receive funds received from the WEDC, and to disburse those funds to local small businesses through the Building Bridges Small Business Grant program.

FISCAL NOTE

Creation of this account will have a net zero impact on the division's budget. The only immediate use for the account will be to receive funds from WEDC, and to disburse those funds to small businesses. Any staff time to manage the account will be absorbed in the division's existing budget.

Prepared By: Heather Reindl

Approved By:

Celia Benton

Celia Benton
Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services

Attachment: Resolution
 Fiscal Note

cc: David Crowley, County Executive
 Liz Sumner, Comptroller
 Committee on Finance
 MaryJo Meyers, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
 Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
 Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
 Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator
 Ken Smith, County Board Research Analyst