

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND OF THE TECH VALLEY CENTER OF GRAVITY (TVCOG) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the economic development concept for the Tech Valley Center of Gravity (TVCOG) was the result of an initiative by the Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Tech Valley Center of Gravity is housed in the Quackenbush Building, which was refurbished by a developer using the Rensselaer County Industrial Development finance incentives; and

WHEREAS, the Tech Valley Center of Gravity has requested support from the Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency for its Community Outreach Fund which assists and trains students, veterans, seniors, and others of limited means to participate in the programs and services of TVCOG, thus empowering a previously untapped work force resource in our county; and

WHEREAS, TVCOG personnel are trained in the use and application of Computer Numerical Control (CNC) equipment for milling, cutting, etc., Welding (TIG and MIG), 3D Printers, Laser cutting, Electronics, Microcomputer applications, Computer game designing, Fabrication of metals, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the development and availability of a skilled workforce is an extremely desirable attribute when recruiting for new businesses to come to our county, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency shall be and hereby is authorized to issue a check for the Community Outreach Fund of the Tech Valley Center of Gravity in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000).

Resolution ADOPTED by the following vote:

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

July 19, 2018

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) SS.:
COUNTY OF RENSSELAER)

I, the undersigned (Assistant) Secretary of Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency"), DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared the foregoing annexed extract of the minutes of the meeting of the members of the Agency, including the Resolution contained therein, held on July 19, 2018 with the original thereof on file in my office, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original and of such Resolution contained therein and of the whole of said original so far as the same relates to the subject matters therein referred to.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that (A) all members of the Agency had due notice of said meeting; (B) said meeting was in all respects duly held; (C) pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (the "Open Meetings Law"), said meeting was open to the general public, and due notice of the time and place of said meeting was duly given in accordance with such Open Meetings Law; and (D) there was a quorum of the members of the Agency present throughout said meeting.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that, as of the date hereof, the attached Resolution is in full force and effect and has not been amended, repealed or rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Agency this 19th day of July, 2018.



(Assistant) Secretary

(SEAL)



TO: Rensselaer County IDA
FROM: Holly Cargill-Cramer, Executive Director
DATE: April 2, 2018
RE: A Brief Proposal

I am reaching out to request your consideration of a grant I believe would significantly advance Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency's mission of promoting economic development and vitality in the county.

In September 2017, the Tech Valley Center of Gravity (TVCOG) voted to eliminate the across-the-board student discount and establish a Community Outreach Fund to be used to provide economic support for those wishing to take advantage of membership, programs and services at TVCOG but lacking the financial resources to do so. The impetus for this decision was recognition that, while we were providing a significant discount to students without consideration of economic situation, we had no means in place to assist other individuals who wished to use TVCOG but lacked resources. As our organization continues to develop, and in recognition of our status as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, we wish to strengthen our service as a community resource for all, regardless of economic status. We see a Community Outreach Fund as a means to assist not only students of limited means, but veterans, seniors, families and others.

At this time, we are providing discounted or free membership to a number of individuals without funding to cover the discounts, which is negatively impacting our cash flow. It is our intention to begin accepting donations and holding fundraising activities to grow this fund, but we believe a significant kick start to this fund would allow us to openly enhance awareness of its availability to those in need of it, as well as create visibility and value for additional donors. Having a source of funding for these purposes will also expand TVCOG's membership base and assist us with maintaining our own economic vitality.

We are requesting that Rensselaer County IDA consider a \$10,000 donation to this fund to be earmarked for use by Rensselaer County residents of limited economic means. TVCOG will establish a three-person confidential review committee to make decisions regarding applicants to the fund, who may apply for assistance (whole or in part) for membership, classes, programs or machine use. As you are aware, use of this makerspace opens doors for its users - doors that may lead to new interests, new businesses, new vocations, new products and more. Through providing enhanced access to county residents of limited means, Rensselaer County IDA would be serving a previously untapped potential economic development source.

Should you decide to fund this request, TVCOG will provide you quarterly reports detailing how the funds are being applied and how applications are being solicited and reviewed. We will use existing resources to announce availability of the funds and publicize the donation, including information on our website, outreach via other service organizations and outreach to the media.

I hope you will look favorably upon this request. Should you have questions or wish to discuss it further, please reach out to me at holly@tvkog.net or 518-244-3544. Thank you, in advance, for your thoughtful consideration.