

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Kate Dean, Commissioner

DATE: November 7, 2022

SUBJECT: North Olympic Peninsula (NOP) Procurement Technical Assistance Center

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Businesses on the North Olympic Peninsula often struggle to have the capacity to seek and secure government contracts, meaning that publicly-funded projects often get awarded to non-local companies, which sends wages out of our Counties. The State of Washington has supported regional Procurement Technical Assistance in Kitsap to help businesses gain the skills and resources necessary to start securing contracts with local, state and federal governments. But these services are not well utilized by Jefferson and Clallam County businesses, in part due to lack of knowledge of services available, and the distance is also a barrier.

In response, Clallam Economic Development Council, in collaboration with Team Jefferson EDC, applied for and was awarded grant funding to create a NOP Procurement Technical Assistance Center. Clallam EDC has hired a program manager and counselor to work in both Counties, starting October 1, 2022.

Clallam EDC is seeking \$10,000 from Jefferson County to serve as match for this grant in exchange for providing these services here in collaboration with Team Jefferson EDC.

ANALYSIS:

With extraordinary funding being made available by the federal government, there will be many publicly-funded projects happening on the Peninsula. It would be highly beneficial to have local businesses able to secure contracts to work on these projects. Providing technical assistance and training to local businesses will increase the likelihood that this can happen successfully.

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$10,000 one-time funds, which could come from a variety of sources.

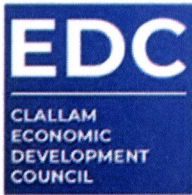
RECOMMENDATION:

The BOCC will be asked to providing \$10,000 in match for this grant. The BOCC should consider whether to support this request and discuss what funding source could be used.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

11/3/22
Date



October 3, 2022

Jefferson County Board of Commissioners
Kate Dean – District 1 / Heidi Eisenhour – District 2 / Greg Brotherton – District 3
1820 Jefferson Street
Port Townsend, WA

Dear Commissioners,

On October 1, 2022 the Clallam County Economic Development Council was awarded ongoing funding to support a North Olympic Peninsula Procurement Technical Assistance Center (NOP-PTAC). This nascent center is part of the Clallam EDC, and we will be serving businesses in both Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

The state has supported a PTAC program for years with regional offices. The regional office for our Jefferson and Clallam Counties was located in Kitsap County, but we have received extremely limited support over the past decades. Last year we worked with EDC Team Jefferson, and determined the best course of action for our region's businesses and labor force would be to directly apply for our own program directly from the federal government.

You likely know that government contracts and subcontracts are not generally awarded to local business owners because they are unaware, and therefore not positioned, to compete for procurement opportunities. A PTAC dedicated to our distinct geographic region will change this by guiding them through the onerous system and setting them up for success. We will help our own community members thrive instead of importing workers and companies from outside the region.

The total program cost of the program is over \$180K annually and requires a local match. The purpose of this letter is to formally request that Jefferson County contract with the Clallam EDC in 2023 for \$10,000 to support this critical program.

As the Washington State Department of Transportation removes culverts on the Peninsula for fish passage and our local governments receive infrastructure funding from federal resources, we want to ensure that as much of this lucrative funding remains in our counties as possible.

We are excited to announce that the Clallam EDC has hired Rebekah Miller, (RMiller@clallam.org) to serve as our local PTAC Program Manager and Counselor beginning Oct. 1, 2023. She looks forward to working with your team, and we would be pleased to meet with you if you would like more information.

We appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colleen McAleer", is positioned above the printed name.

Colleen McAleer
Executive Director