



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, August 23, 2005

Council Session

## Item G4

**#2005-232- Approving a Resolution of Support for the Rual Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP) to provide future business development services**

Staff Contact: Paul M. Briseno

# **Council Agenda Memo**

**From:** Administration

**Meeting:** August 23, 2005

**Subject:** Approving a Resolution of Support for the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP) to provide future business development services.

**Item #'s:** G-4

**Presenter(s):** Paul M. Briseno, Assistant to the City Administrator

## **Background**

The Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP) is a program of the Center for Rural Affairs that provides key business development services to rural startup and existing microenterprise businesses. REAP has provided services to small business since 1990. Training, technical assistance, networking opportunities and access to small business loans are services provided by REAP.

## **Discussion**

To provide future services in Grand Island, The Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP) is requesting a resolution of support to obtain funding from newly approved Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

## **Alternatives**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Postpone the issue to future date
3. Take no action on the issue

## **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends the Council approve a resolution of support for the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP) to provide future business development services.

## **Sample Motion**

Motion to approve the resolution of support for the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP) to provide future business development services.

# CENTER *for* RURAL AFFAIRS



August 10, 2005

Dear Mayor and City Council or Chairman and Village Board of Trustees,

The Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP) is a program of the Center for Rural Affairs (CRA) and provides key business development services to rural startup and existing microenterprise businesses (businesses with five or fewer employees). REAP is Nebraska's largest "microenterprise development program" and has national recognition as one of the premier rural programs in the nation.

We sent out a letter similar to this one the end of April 2005 to over 250 communities in Nebraska. We were asking the city or village to approve a resolution of support so REAP can provide business development services in each city under our newly approved Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant. There is no cost to the city, but is simply a new CDBG requirement this year. We received over 1/3 of the resolutions with the first mailing and are hoping to receive the remainder through this second mailing. The remainder of this letter and attachments explains more about REAP.

REAP operates on a statewide rural basis in Nebraska through regionally placed Business Specialists and we provide small business training, technical assistance, networking opportunities and access to small business loans.

Since 1990, REAP has provided key services to small businesses in rural Nebraska. REAP receives some of its funding from the CDBG Program through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED) to be able to provide these services.

Following NDED recommendations for the federal CDBG Program, we would need a "**Resolution of Support**" from your community to be able to provide our services in the future. The resolution must recognize the need for small business development services and agree that your community is part of the service area and desirous of services. Enclosed is a Sample Resolution for your review and use.

Also enclosed is a page showing the benefits of the REAP program and a statewide map and identification of our staff.

We would appreciate receipt of a copy of your community's Resolution by October 25, 2005.

Enclosed is a postage paid, return envelope for your convenience. Please feel free to call us if you have questions or comments. We wish to continue our mission of strengthening rural communities through small, self-employed business development in your community and surrounding area.

Sincerely,

Jeff Reynolds  
REAP Program Co-Director  
Center for Rural Affairs  
(402) 656-3091

Glennis McClure  
REAP Program Co-Director  
Center for Rural Affairs  
(402) 645-3296



R E S O L U T I O N    2005-232

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, Nebraska is an eligible unit of general government authorized to participate in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs through the State of Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED); and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island and surrounding area has a strong need for business development services and we agree that our community is part of a Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP-CDBG) service area in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island would like the services of REAP to be available for start-up and existing entrepreneurs, as needed; and

WHEREAS, the work of the REAP Program is consistent with local and area-wide strategic plans for community and economic development and will be coordinated with other economic development activities in the project area; and

WHEREAS, working together will create more opportunities for entrepreneurs and will further enhance the overall effectiveness of all program partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the City of Grand Island supports the provision of services by the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP) in the City and surrounding area.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, August 23, 2005.

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RaNae Edwards, City Clerk