



City of Aurora

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Cover Memorandum

File Number: 24-0601

Agenda Date: 8/15/2024

Version: 1

Status: Draft

In Control: Finance Committee

File Type: Resolution

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: enter your name, title

DATE: August 13, 2024

SUBJECT:

Revisions to the 2024 Finish Line Grant Program

PURPOSE:

To broaden and clarify the eligibility requirements for the Finish Line Grant Program (FLG) to enable it to more efficiently fulfill its purpose to support local business, foster economic growth, and to enhance the quality of life in the City.

BACKGROUND:

Established in 2015, the FLG Program has historically helped to enhance the economic vitality of Aurora. Originally administered through Seize the Future Development Foundation d/b/a Invest Aurora ("Invest Aurora"), the FLG Program was transferred to the Mayor's Office of Economic Development in 2022.

Pursuant to R24-0188, in May of 2024, administration of the FLG Program was transferred back to Invest Aurora.

Invest Aurora immediately started working on implementing the FLG Program. Upon further review and implementation of the criteria and restrictions originally placed on the FLG Program and correspondence with prospective applicants, Invest Aurora determined certain restrictions set forth in the guidelines of the FLG Program limited the applicability of the grant as compared to earlier years of the program. Invest Aurora concluded the limitations presented by the FLG Program, as adopted, were severe enough to compromise the intent of the program. Invest Aurora decided it was in the best interest of the FLG Program to approach the City Council with this resolution to propose an amended set of guidelines for the administration of the FLG Program.

DISCUSSION:

To more effectively fulfill the intent of the FLG Program, Invest Aurora proposes the FLG Program be administered in accordance with the guidelines set forth on Attachment A

(attached hereto). Below is a list of the key revisions these new guidelines would make to the FLG Program:

- Eliminates requirement that 51% of the revenue of applicant’s business must be subject to sales tax;
- Eliminates provisions that limit grant awards to only “portions of the project that will remain permanent to the property;”
- Provides that grants will now cover 20% of eligible material and equipment costs and 30% of eligible labor costs;
- Clarifies what equipment would be an Eligible Expense under the FLG Program;
- Clarifies that the Prevailing Wage Act applies to work paid for by the FLG Program;
- Increases the minimum allowable Project from \$5,000 to \$10,000; and
- Authorizes the acceptance of applications on a rolling basis until funds allocated for the program have been exhausted.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

Approval of this Resolution will allow for Invest Aurora to administer the FLG Program in a manner that more effectively supports local businesses, fosters economic growth, and improves the quality of life in the City.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Council approve this Resolution.

cc: Finance Committee

CITY OF AURORA, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. _____
DATE OF PASSAGE _____

A Resolution authorizing revisions to the Finish Line Grant Program administered by Invest Aurora.

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora has a population of more than 25,000 persons and is, therefore, a home rule unit under subsection (a) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and

WHEREAS, subject to said Section, a home rule unit may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Seize the Future Development Foundation, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, doing business as Invest Aurora (“Invest Aurora”), and the City entered into

an agreement for economic development activities and services approved via Resolution 13-182 on June 25, 2013, which agreement was amended pursuant to amendments approved via Resolution 16-205 on June 14, 2016 and Resolution R22-135 on May 10, 2022; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to that certain Resolution No. R24-0188 passed on May 28, 2024 (the "Prior FLG Resolution"), the City Council of the City approved the transfer of (i) the administration of the Finish Line Grant Program and the awarding of grants thereunder, and (ii) certain funds for the Finish Line Grant Program, to Invest Aurora; and

WHEREAS, the Prior FLG Resolution provides that Invest Aurora administer the Finish Line Grant Program in accordance with certain program guidelines attached as Attachment A thereto; and

WHEREAS, the City and Invest Aurora desire that Invest Aurora administer the Finish Line Grant Program in accordance with new program guidelines as set forth on Attachment A attached hereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Aurora, Illinois, as follows: that Invest Aurora shall be and hereby is authorized to administer the Finish Line Grant Program in general accordance with the program guidelines attached hereto as Attachment A; and further

BE IT RESOLVED that Invest Aurora shall be and hereby is authorized to adopt such supplemental rules and policies as are reasonably necessary to administer the program consistent with the provisions of this Resolution and R24-0188; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that to the extent the provisions of this Resolution and the attachments thereto conflict with the provisions of R24-0188, the conflicting provisions of R24-0188 shall be and hereby are repealed.