

April 11, 2023

Contract 23-50

Agenda Action Report
Prepared for the
Cascade County Commission

ITEM: Extension of Contract #MT-BSTF-1-23-01 Montana Department of Commerce Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program for Touro University Montana LLC (Reference: Resolution 22-18)

INITIATED AND PRESENTED BY: Joe Briggs, Commissioner

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of letter requesting extension of contract #MT-BSTF-1-23-01

BACKGROUND:

Cascade County approved Resolution 22-18, R0426705 which allowed the Great Falls Development Authority move forward on behalf of Touro University Montana LLC (Touro), with the Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Job Creation Project grant pursuant to Sections 90-1-201 et seq. Montana Code Annotated.

This contract provided funding under the Big Sky Economic Development trust Fund Program as approved by the Department of Commerce. The total amount to be awarded under this Contract was not exceed \$225,000 to be used as follows:

- Up to \$207,000 or \$6,900 per job to assist Touro with the purchase of equipment, furniture, furnishings, and construction materials and for wage reimbursement; and
- Up to \$18,000 or \$600 per job for eligible administrative expenses.
- The term of the contract expires on April 30, 2023

Construction delays have led to a delay in the hiring of the planned staff and as such, Touro University Montana is asking Cascade County as the hosting agency to request from the Montana Department of Commerce a one- year extension on this grant.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve contract extension request

TWO MOTIONS PROVIDED FOR CONSIDERATION:

MOTION TO APPROVE:

“Madam Chair, I move Cascade County Commission APPROVE Contract 23-50 requesting a one-year extension of Contract #MT-BSTF-1-23-0-01 from the Montana Department of Commerce.”

MOTION TO DISAPPROVE:

“Madam Chair, I move Cascade County Commission DISAPPROVE Contract 23-50 requesting an extension of Contract #MT-BSTF-1-23-0-01.”



CASCADE COUNTY

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April 11, 2023

Ann Marie Robinson
Section Manager Big Sky Trust Fund
Montana Department of Commerce
301 South Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Ms. Robinson:

We are writing to request an extension on our Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Contract #MT-BSTF-1-23-01.

We believed that they would be able to complete the grant in a one-year period but due to extraneous forces, they were unable to do so. We do believe that they will be able to fulfill the grant requirements with an extension of time. The hiring is behind due to construction being behind due to supply chain issues. There were problems receiving the HVAC and other units necessary to complete the building on the original schedule which has delayed the hiring process. They need the space finished to hire the remainder of employees.

The space is nearly complete, and Touro University Montana LLC is accepting the inaugural class. We are confident we can complete the grant contract by April 30, 2024 and request a one year extension to do so.

Thus far Touro University Montana LLC has hired 9 of the 30 employees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rae Grulkowski
Chairman
Cascade County Commission

James L. Larson
Commissioner

Joe Briggs
Commissioner