

**MADISON COUNTY
GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2026, 4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Frank Dickerson, Valerie Doucleff, Fred Schulte, Ron Simpson, Victor Valentine, Denise Wiehardt, Shawndell Wilson

ABSENT: Alison Lamothe

OTHERS: Stacey Pace, Nadine Pfeiffer, Christian Buesser-Hosto, Rebecca Ryan, Darlene Ladd, Kyle Anderson, Cynthia Ellis, Cathryn Hamilton, Mike Babcock

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kyle Anderson, Executive Director & CEO of the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois, was present to address the Committee. We provided access to the internet for Kyle, so he could present the information in this link to the Committee.

<https://envision southwesternillinois.com/>

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair, Denise Wiehardt, asked the Committee if there were any suggestions to add, subtract, or changes to the minutes from the Grants Committee meeting from November 4, 2025.

Motion to approve was made by Valerie Doucleff, seconded by Frank Dickerson.

Motion approved by the 7 members present.

E. PROCLAMATIONS

F. PURCHASE APPROVALS

Chair, Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve the Monthly Purchase Report.

Motion to approve was made by Fred Schulte, seconded by Victor Valentine.

Motion approved by the 7 members present.

G. PURCHASE REQUESTS

G1. Chair Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve a purchase request for Employer Incentive Payment for 8 apprentices through the Ferguson-Florissant School District in the amount of \$6,800.00 for the term July 1, 2022-June 30, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Frank Dickerson, seconded by Victor Valentine.

Motion approved by the 7 members present.

G2. Chair Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve a purchase request for Employer Incentive Payment for Hydroponic Farming apprentices through Fresh Harvest 365, LLC not to exceed \$15,000.00 for the term July 1, 2022-June 30, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Frank Dickerson, seconded by Valerie Doucleff.

Motion approved by the 7 members present.

G3. Chair Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve a purchase request for Employer Incentive Payment for Teacher Apprentices through the Hazelwood School District, not to exceed \$15,000.00, for the term July 1, 2022-June 30, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Valerie Doucleff, seconded by Fred Schulte.

Motion approved by the 7 members present.

G4. Chair Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve a purchase request for Employer Incentive Payment for Early Childhood Educator Apprentices through Siblings and Company, LLC, not to exceed \$15,000.00 for term of July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Valerie Doucleff, seconded by Shawndell Wilson.

Motion approved by the 7 members present.

G5. Chair Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve a (REVISED) purchase request for Employer Incentive Payment for up to 18 Teacher Apprentices through Mascoutah CUSD #19, not to exceed \$15,000.00, for term of July 1, 2022-June 30, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Valerie Doucleff, seconded by Frank Dickerson.

Motion approved by the 7 members present.

G6. Chair Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve a purchase request for Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program costs for 10 CNA Pre-Apprentices, through Special School District of St. Louis County, in the amount of \$23,706.00, for term of July 1, 2022-June 30, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Valerie Doucleff, seconded by Victor Valentine.

Motion approved by the 7 members present.

G7. Chair Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve a purchase request for Incumbent Worker Program Costs for OSHA 10 Training for CKS Metal Corporation, through Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC), not to exceed \$6,525.00 for term of December 5, 2025 – May 31, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Fred Schulte, seconded by Shawndell Wilson.

Motion approved by the 7 members present.

H. PURCHASE RESOLUTIONS

L- RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

J. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Darlene Ladd, Director of Employment and Training, along with Rebecca Ryan, from the Employment and Training Department, were present to discuss the monthly Employment and Training report that was previously emailed to the Committee.

Cathryn Hamilton was present and gave a brief economic development report to the committee. She stated that they submitted an application for the continuation of the Gateway Commerce center in December and don't see any problems with that getting approve. She also stated that she will have a full power point presentation on data centers at next months Grants meeting.

Stacey Pace was present to give the MCCD monthly report that was previously emailed to the Committee.

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

L. NEW BUSINESS

Next regular Grants meeting will be Tuesday, February 3, 2026 @ 4:00 pm

M. CLOSED SESSION

None

N. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made at 4:25pm by Fred Schulte, seconded by Victor Valentine.

Motion approved by the 7 members present.