

Agenda Item Summary

To: Policy Board

From: Pauline Yoder, Chief Operating Officer

CC: M. Hart, Executive Director; C. Palmer, Director of Regional Planning & Development

Meeting Date: January 27, 2026

Subject: Resolution to Authorize the Use of Regional Fund to Support CRCOG’s Economic Development Program

Background:

CRCOG hired an economic development coordinator in 2024 to assist with implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and to manage various initiatives related to our new EDA Economic Development District (EDD) designation. Our intent was to partially fund the coordinator position through an EDA partnership grant, (a rolling 3-year, \$70,000/year grant awarded to EDD’s nationwide). Earlier this fiscal year, the EDA informed CRCOG that although we had satisfied all legal and programmatic requirements, we would not be receiving a federal partnership grant.

In 2016/17 when CRCOG increased its membership, the Policy Board’s established a Regional Fund with \$100,000 per year to be used for regional projects and initiatives. Each fiscal year, CRCOG has continued to add to that fund. When funding was available, CRCOG added funds in excess of the \$100,000 originally committed. CRCOG has also been able to make an on-going addition to the General Fund during this timeframe.

Regional Fund Additions and General Fund Additions Each Year

| Fiscal Year | Regional Fund Additions | General Fund Additions | Available Regional Fund Balance |
|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| FY 2024-2025 | \$100,000 | \$116,410 | \$1,781,522 |
| FY 2023-2024 | \$429,725 | \$115,002 | \$2,239,195 |
| FY 2022-2023 | \$100,000 | \$97,801 | \$1,835,049 |
| FY 2021-2022 | \$200,000 | \$190,135 | \$1,754,330 |
| FY 2020-2021 | \$600,492* | \$113,400 | \$1,547,917 |

*In FY 2020/21 and FY 2023/24, additional funds from Municipal Services were moved to the Regional Fund

Due to the fact that we will not be receiving the federal partnership grant for the new few years, management is requesting to use \$70,000 per year from the Regional Fund for a three-year period to support our regional economic development program. If and when CRCOG receives the EDA partnership grant, we could apply the \$70,000 allocation from the regional fund towards the required match.

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG:

CRCOG’s economic development program benefits our member towns in the following ways:

- Managing and updating our federally mandated CEDS including tracking economic development metrics and TOD investment
- Managing our new regional strategic partnership with Connecticut Main Street
- Establishing a strong relationship with our EDA project officer and connecting municipalities to EDA funding when opportunities arise
- Understanding local economic development goals and projects to help make connections to partners and/or funding resources
- Nurturing regional relationships with key partners (e.g., MetroHartford Alliance and Capitol Workforce Partners) to better position CRCOG to help our communities realize their economic development goals
- Communicating development trends and funding opportunities with our municipalities
- Helping connect businesses to municipalities, as applicable

Financial/Operational Impact:

Management believes that CRCOG can make the \$70,000 annual allocation to support our economic development program, and continue to fund the Regional Fund at the \$100,000 a year level.

Furthermore, if and when CRCOG receives the EDA Partnership Grant, the match would already be in place.

Recommendation: Following the endorsement of CRCOG's Executive Committee at its recent meeting on January 14, staff recommends Policy Board approval of the proposed Resolution to Authorize the Use of the Regional Fund to Support CRCOG's Economic Development Program.

Attachments:

- Proposed Resolution

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF THE REGIONAL FUND TO
SUPPORT CRCOG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, CRCOG established the position of Economic Development Coordinator in 2024 to manage and help implement the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), advance initiatives related to our Economic Development District (EDD) designation by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), and assist with various other economic development actions to benefit our municipalities; and

WHEREAS, EDDs typically receive funds from the EDA in the form of a Partnership grant to assist with economic development efforts as federal funding allows; and

WHEREAS, CRCOGs most recent application for funding with EDA for \$210,000 for three years was unsuccessful; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Fund was established by CRCOG for the purposes of supporting regional projects and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, CRCOG's economic development program provides a regional benefit by way of maintaining our federally required CEDS, advancing CRCOG as an EDD, and working with our municipalities and various partners to communicate trends, best practices, funding opportunities, and foster connections across the region;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that \$70,000 annually from the Regional Fund be utilized for FY 2025/26, FY 2026/27, and FY 2027/28 to support CRCOG's economic development program and that this funding may be also be utilized for the required EDD match towards an EDA partnership grant if awarded such grant is awarded during the three-year time period.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Capitol Region Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Capitol Region Council of Governments Executive Committee, on January 27, 2026.

BY: _____ DATE: _____
Rodney Fournier, Secretary