

RESOLUTION 15-60

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF ST CLAIR COUNTY  
ST. CLAIR COUNTY REVERSE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

WHEREAS, the County of St. Clair and the local region have seen a decline in local residents with college degrees that would serve as a basis for improving the economic conditions and subsequent quality of life improvements for the County and region; and

WHEREAS, this has led to a loss of overall population in the county, leading to increasing burdens on local government to meet the needs of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the County of St. Clair, in conjunction with the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission, is responsible for coordinating and supervising economic development functions in St. Clair County; and

WHEREAS, the County's Metropolitan Planning Commission represents the county in joint planning activities with other jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission is charged pursuant to the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008 of the Public Acts of Michigan, with the formation and adoption of a plan for the development of the county; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Planning Commission drafted a master plan for the development of the county which was received, reviewed and adopted by the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners on July 15, 2009 ("Master Plan 2030"); and

WHEREAS, Master Plan 2030 states that nearly 40% of St. Clair County residents have only a high school diploma and acknowledges the importance of education and training, and attracting and keeping highly skilled workers in the county; and

WHEREAS, Master Plan 2030 has among its goals ensuring that a full range of opportunities for advanced education and training will be available and accessible, and retaining educated, skilled and entrepreneurial talent; and

WHEREAS, the County also has appointed representatives on SEMCOG's General Assembly and Executive Committee, both of which have taken action with respect to regional economic development strategies, including the Increasing Jobs and Prosperity in Southeast Michigan strategy which acknowledges the necessity of retaining and increasing talent in the region to counter significant job losses, an eroding tax base and reductions in government services; and

WHEREAS, the Community Foundation of St. Clair County in collaboration with other partners focused on increasing talent retention and regional prosperity, and combatting deteriorating and financially distressed communities, has created a new scholarship fund ("Fund"); and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that this new Fund will lessen the burdens of government by preventing further erosion of the County's economic base by recruiting and retaining college educated employees for St. Clair County's workforce to live and work in the County; and

WHEREAS, through the Fund, the Community Foundation of St. Clair County seeks to lessen the burdens of county government, and improve the quality of life, and economic condition of residents in St. Clair County, Michigan which is consistent with the goals of Master Plan 2030 and related economic development strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Fund is a part of a broader regional effort with other community foundations and community partners to expand our talent retention efforts, stimulate greater investments in our communities and improve our economic outlook; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the Fund is to support the efforts of local partners to attract young professionals with degrees in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) to work and live in our financially distressed county and communities; and


WHEREAS, relief of the poor and distressed or of the underprivileged; advancement of education or science; lessening the burdens of government or to combat community deterioration and juvenile delinquency are all included in the definition of the term "charitable" as defined by the Internal Revenue Code, Treas. Reg. subsection 1.501(c)(3)-1(d)(2).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the County of St. Clair shall enter into a joint effort with the Community Foundation of St. Clair County to administer the "Reverse Scholarship" program which is designed to lessen the burdens of government by improving income levels, decreasing unemployment rates, increasing household incomes and increasing the percentage of residents with college degrees living and working in financially distressed areas in St. Clair County in accordance with the attached "FUND AGREEMENT".

Dated:

Reviewed and Approved as to Form by:

ST. CLAIR COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Gary A. Fletcher  
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