

City of Belding, Michigan
2014 Cooperate, Collaborate and Consolidate Services Plan
Category two of the State of Michigan
Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP)

This document is updated by Margaret Mullendore City Manager. Costs savings or revenues that changed were updated to current actual or estimates 2013.

The City of Belding has a history of collaborating with neighboring townships, communities and counties through its police and fire departments. Belding is located in the North West corner of Ionia County three miles south of the Montcalm County line and four miles east of the Kent County line. The benefits from collaborative efforts are sometime more through coordinated efforts that improve the service for each community than simply cost savings.

Under the State of Michigan Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP), every city must prepare a report on collaboration and cooperation. The report must provide information on current collaborative efforts as well as discuss future cooperative ideas under discussion. Each collaborative effort needs to include cost savings in the report.

Cost savings for many collaborative efforts are difficult to calculate. The calculation of the cost savings often depends on the set of assumptions of level of service to be provided and the perspective of the entity making the estimate. The cost savings for current and for future collaborative efforts will be on an annual basis. The actual savings on future collaborations will depend on the final negotiated details as they can affect the actual savings.

Previous Collaborations:

The Ionia County Housing coalition is forming which is comprised of Housing Commissions in Ionia County and other various agencies in the County such as United Way, MSU Extension, and others. The coalition is determining what each organization is doing and looking for ways to streamline the entire process of assisting individual families in Ionia County. No point in duplicating efforts. The plan is to set up a network for referrals and to utilize financial resources in an efficient way.

Annual savings \$1,000 – Started in early 2012 and continues into 2014.

Discussions are in process with the Ionia County Economic Alliance to hire a director through Right Place of Grand Rapids to show case Ionia County communities attract businesses to the area.

Annual savings \$10,000 – A Director was hired January 2012 through the Right Place of Grand Rapids and continues into 2014.

Discussion with Portland and Ionia on the possibility of consolidation the property assessor duties under one company as the City of Belding part time assessor is nearing retirement.

Annual savings \$10,000 for each community – Discussion has been dropped. Belding will be looking for a person to work part time two days a week to replace our retiring assessor at the end of April 2013.

Several ways to share services for road maintenance is being discussed with Portland and Ionia. Some of the services being looked at are crack fill, street striping and street sweeping. The City of Belding does street sweeping three times per year and the street sweeper is in need of major repairs.

Annual savings estimate \$5,000 – At this time Belding works with the Ionia Road Commission to receive the best cost for street striping (2012 going forward). Discussions for combining crack filling and street sweeping at this time have been dropped.

The City of Belding is actively working with the Rails to Trails coalition to complete the Rails to Trails connection from Ionia to Lowell to Belding to Greenville. Once completed many miles of beautiful trails will be available for bike riders and walkers. With the trails going through several cities and townships, several businesses along the trail should benefit from the use.

Annual savings \$0.0 – as it provides opportunity for local businesses to increase traffic flow to their business along and around the trail as the riders and walkers move through the communities. Estimated start and completion of project is in 2014\2015. The City of Belding has a \$1,016,000 MDOT Enhancement Grant and a \$300,000 MDNR Grant to help cover the cost of paving a 2.2 mile stretch. We are working on raising the remaining portion of the \$1,500,000 project.

2013 Future Collaboration:

The Belding Area Schools and the City of Belding will be discussing the possibility of utilizing a School administrative building for a community center for the area. Discussion has been dropped. School administrative building is going to be used for school activities at this time.

2014 Future Collaboration:

Annual savings estimate \$48,000 - The City of Belding will be discussing the viability of sharing a third party administrator to oversee the Dial-A-Ride operation with the City of Ionia and Greenville. It is anticipated each community could see a savings of 40% in the overall operational costs of Dial-A-Ride.