



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #III.I

DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2011

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: OPEN INDICATORS CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT - CITIBANK GRANT

On October 26, 2011 Citi Community Development announced it will provide a \$100,000 grant to support the Southeast Florida Regional Indicators Project, an initiative of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership (SFRP). The Partnership brings together more than 200 public, private, non-profit, and civic stakeholders from the seven-county region of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties. In October 2010, Southeast Florida became one of 45 recipients of a US HUD Sustainable Communities planning grant to develop a long-term "Regional Vision and Blueprint for Economic Prosperity." This Project will enable the collection, analysis and integration of myriad data needed to spur policymaking and community development. It will facilitate informed, data-driven economic and community development efforts and strategic investment to address a range of challenges, including the widening education and skills gap, the need to diversify the region's economic base, the need to expand financial inclusion, and the need to help more local businesses start and succeed.

As part of this Project, the SFRP will work with public, private and nonprofit organizations to collect raw data on various economic and social metrics and will develop a Regional Resource Library and data warehouse that regional stakeholders and residents will be able to access and interact with via the Internet. To enable best use of the data, the SFRP also will develop a Scorecard with key indicators and methods of measuring progress toward them. The Regional Resource Library's rich trove of information will be delivered with a new, cutting edge technology for visualizing data - the Web-based Analysis and Visualization Environment (WEAVE). WEAVE is a high-performance platform that is unique in its extremely high level of user interactivity. WEAVE also facilitates extensive sharing of information among users.

A portion of Citi funds (\$75,000) will fund the one-time cost for joining the Open Indicators Consortium, an initiative of the University of Massachusetts Lowell Institute for Visualization and Perception Research, which is developing WEAVE. The remaining amount (\$25,000) will allow the Partnership to work with institutions of higher learning that are regional members to produce reports with first indicators on some of the key municipal partners demographic and other data.

Recommendation

Authorize the Executive Director to execute the Agreement with the Open Indicators Consortium and pay the \$75,000.00 fee for Primary Membership through June 2014, using funding provided by the grant from CitiBank.