

Agency 16: Economic Development Authority

Background

The performance of Fund 16 (Economic Development Authority, EDA) is difficult to measure. EDA takes credit for the increase in County jobs and companies, but the increment due to the EDA is unknown. The EDA seems to be important to the County, but, as we stated last year, better means of measuring performance are needed. For example, the EDA might log how many referrals are obtained from the VEDP, how many database entries the VEDP has obtained from the EDA, and how many businesses and jobs came to Fairfax as a result of referrals and other contacts. Jobs and businesses lost should also be reported, if only so the effect of County governance can be tracked. Measures are also needed to justify the existence of the foreign offices maintained by the EDA. The expenditure per employee is over \$200,000, which is more than twice the \$84,000 average for all of Community Development.

Resolution 3: Justifying the Cost of the Economic Development Authority

WHEREAS the Performance Measurement Results for the Economic Development Authority do not isolate the Authority's performance from those of the Commonwealth's Economic Development Partnership or from the happenstance that a company chooses Fairfax County,

WHEREAS the average expenditure per employee is over \$200,000 as compared to \$84,000 for all of the Community Development Lines of Business combined,

Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation recognizes the need for an economic point of contact such as the Authority provides, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federation requests that the expenditures be reported in sufficient detail that the cost of foreign sites, travel, exhibitions, and labor are readily identified, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Federation requests that Performance Measures be devised that pertain specifically to the work of the Authority such that the costs can be related to the performance measures.