

self-defined regions and multicommunity and cooperative and to encourage greater collaboration among the various parties interested in local economic development statewide. These grants could be used for projects which encourage entrepreneurship and business expansion, create employment and employment opportunities, help create and develop local condition to encourage and enable people to remain in their communities and to provide a labor pool of properly trained and educated employees and I want to stress the part about those people who would be able to be trained under this particular proposal. And it would coordinate the existing...the use of existing programs and funds more efficiently and effectively in support of new programs and initiative. What we tried to do in putting this bill together was keep the application requirements simple. The applicants must demonstrate that the projects in question is multiarea and multicommunity in nature and I think that's an important issue that I want to stress here today. He must be able to document a 25 percent direct or in kind match from those who are making application, must be able to document basic goals for the project and this was an issue that we talked about at length because we think that they need to design basic goals so that somehow we can measure, have a measuring stick to determine if they're actually reaching those goals as they move...as they acquire the money and put it into operation. We also tried to be reasonable on the restrictions that we placed on these grants. The funds may not be used to replace other funds currently being used for administrative support of the applicant or applicants. Not more than 10 percent, and I'd like to stress here that we'd like to have it even less than that but we thought in order to...there are some instances in small programs where it may take as much as 10 percent. I'm sure that some could do with even less than that. But no more than 10 percent of the money could be used for the administration of the grant and the grant recipient may not receive more than one of these grants for the same project. We wanted some form of measurability in the bill. DED would be required to file a report to the Governor and the Legislature detailing the activities of the grant program and evaluation of the program performance based on the goal set by the applicant as I talked to earlier. They must set goals so that there is some measurable that can be measured by this body and by the Governor and by the Department of Economic Development as they proceed in the project. We are very pleased that the Governor has pledged \$250,000 in each of the next two fiscal years to support partnerships which gives us a great start to meeting objective