

**THE SUMMIT AND MEDINA WORKFORCE AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
FOR OHIO LOCAL WORKFORCE AREA 2  
RESOLUTION 2023-05**

**A Resolution authorizing the Summit and Medina Workforce Area Council of Governments to enter into a professional services agreement with Rise Together (“consultant”) utilizing Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Statewide Special Project grants funds from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00 for the purpose of creating a Summit County Welcoming Workforce Coalition and pilot an attraction, placement, and retention program specifically for international newcomers during the period of March 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.**

**WHEREAS**, on August 27, 2021, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) notified the 20 Ohio Workforce Areas that Program Year 2020 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds recaptured by the State would be made available in the form of statewide special project grants, and provided parameters for proposals;

**WHEREAS**, prior to the commencement of Program Year 2022, (ODJFS) made it known to its 20 Workforce Areas, the statewide special project grants were still available to fund innovative workforce initiatives;

**WHEREAS**, on November 29, 2022, Rise Together submitted a proposal to the Summit and Medina Workforce Area (“Area 2”) detailing its proprietary proven approach to engage and embrace international newcomers into a community to fill workforce skills gaps and demand for good jobs through the creation of a Welcoming Workforce Coalition and implement a pilot attraction, placement, and retention program specifically for international newcomers;

**WHEREAS**, on January 18, 2023, Area 2 submitted a proposal to ODJFS for the use of WIOA Statewide Special Project grants funds for the purpose of using one of the data points from the PY ‘21 ODJFS sponsored “working age adults survey”, which identified there are several non-participating eligible workforce cohorts available for open positions in Summit County;

**WHEREAS**, on February 8, 2023, Area 2 received confirmation that its proposed program plan and budget for the use of WIOA Statewide Special Project grant funds were approved by ODJFS to support a targeted engagement of international newcomers as prescribed by Rise Together; and

**WHEREAS**, the SAMWA COG finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interests of Area 2 to enter into a professional services agreement with Rise Together utilizing ODJFS’ WIOA Statewide Special Project funds in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00 for the period of March 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the SAMWA COG that:

**SECTION 1**

The Summit and Medina Workforce Area Council of Governments hereby awards Rise Together with a Professional Services contract as a consultant, funded by a WIOA Statewide Special Project grant award from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, allocated to

**THE SUMMIT AND MEDINA WORKFORCE AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
FOR OHIO LOCAL WORKFORCE AREA 2  
RESOLUTION 2023-05**

the SAMWA COG on behalf of Area 2 for the purpose of creating a Summit County Welcoming Workforce Coalition and pilot to engage, place, and retain international newcomers in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00, for the period beginning 3/1/2023 and ending 6/30/2024.

**SECTION 2**

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Ayes: 11  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 0

ADOPTED, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2023.

  
Summit County Executive

  
Medina County Commissioner