

Economic Vitality Incentive Program/County Incentive Program Certification of Consolidation of Services

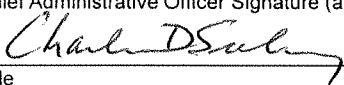
Issued under authority of 2013 Public Act 59. Filing is mandatory to qualify for payments.

Each city/village/township/county applying for Consolidation of Services payments must:

1. Certify to the Michigan Department of Treasury (Treasury) that the local unit listed below has produced and made readily available to the public, a Consolidation Plan as required by 2013 Public Act 59. The plan shall be made available for public viewing in the clerk's office or posted on a publicly accessible Internet site.
2. Submit to Treasury a Consolidation Plan.

City/village/township: This certification, along with a Consolidation Plan, **must be received by February 1, 2014** to receive the February and April payments or on or before March 31, 2014 to receive the April payment. Post mark dates will not be considered. For questions, call (517) 373-2697.

County: This certification, along with a Consolidation Plan, **must be received by February 1, 2014** (or the first day of a payment month) in order to qualify for that month's payment. Post mark dates will not be considered. For questions, call (517) 373-2697.

| PART 1: LOCAL UNIT INFORMATION | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Local Unit Name Village of Breckenridge | | Local Unit County Name Gratiot | |
| Local Unit Code 293020 | | Contact E-Mail Address bridget@breckenridgemi.com | |
| Contact Name Bridget M. Suhr | Contact Title Village Clerk | Contact Telephone Number (989) 842-3109 | Extension |
| Website Address, if plan is available online www.breckenridgemi.com | | | |
| PART 2: CERTIFICATION | | | |
| <i>In accordance with 2013 Public Act 59, the undersigned hereby certifies to Treasury that the above mentioned local unit has produced a Consolidation Plan and has made the plan available for public viewing in the city, village, township, or county clerk's office or has posted the plan on a publicly accessible Internet site. The Consolidation Plan is attached to this signed certification.</i> | | | |
| Chief Administrative Officer Signature (as defined in MCL 141.422b)  | | Printed Name of Chief Administrative Officer (as defined in MCL 141.422b) Charles D. Seeley | |
| Title Village President | | Date 1-22-2013 | |

Completed and signed form (including required attachment) should be e-mailed to: **TreasRevenueSharing@michigan.gov**

If you are unable to submit via e-mail, fax to (517) 335-3298, or mail the completed form and required attachment to:

Michigan Department of Treasury
Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis
PO Box 30722
Lansing MI 48909

| TREASURY USE ONLY | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| EVIP/CIP Eligible Y N | Certification Received | EVIP/CIP Notes |
| Final Certification | Plan Received | |
| | 1st C/P Submission Y N | |

Village of Breckenridge Breckenridge, Michigan 2014 Consolidation of Services

Throughout the past the Village of Breckenridge has repeatedly collaborated with surrounding communities. Collaborating with other communities allows for certain services to be performed that would otherwise be impossible. The great level of service that we provide by working with other communities increases the services that we can provide to our residents. Despite the large efforts of collaboration it is next to impossible to calculate the cost savings. Per statute, this plan is required to list the cost savings for the collaboration. Typically the cost savings will depend on perspective and a set of assumptions about the level of service to which will be provided. The Village of Breckenridge has estimated the cost savings of the collaboration.

A brief history of our current collaborations, future ideas and internal restructuring can be found within this report. Each of our service descriptions will include an estimate of the total cost savings. The cost savings will be directed for the Village of Breckenridge, this will not include the overall net savings of the collaboration.

Current Collaborations with 2014 Updates:

1. **Gratiot County Central Dispatch Authority** – The Central Dispatch is a successful collaboration between all the villages, cities, townships, and Gratiot County. It has been in place since April 1993. By joining this technical emergency 911 call center the Village of Breckenridge saves on wages, hours of operation, operating equipment and supplies.
 - **Participants** – Gratiot County, Alma, Ashley, Breckenridge, Ithaca, Perrinton, St. Louis and the State of Michigan.
 - **Cost** – Central Dispatch operates with a budget of approximately \$765,000.
Collaboration Benefits – An individual dispatch center would not have the same level of service or technology that is gained with the collaboration. Estimated costs of a dispatch center for the Village alone is around \$306,600.

2. **Greater Gratiot Development, Inc.** – GGDI is one of the first major collaborative efforts for all communities in Gratiot County. GGDI focus on enhancing economic development within the county.
 - **Participants** – Gratiot County, Alma, Breckenridge, Ithaca, St. Louis, and Pine River Township.
 - **Cost** – Great Gratiot Operating budget for FY2014 = \$442,608.
 - **Collaboration Benefits** – By working with neighboring communities, the level of service is much greater rather than if we had undertaken it by ourselves.
 - GGDI has helped our community net over 200 temporary jobs and 16 permanent jobs. In 2012 we will see a net gain of 33 additional permanent jobs because of collaborative efforts from our county and GGDI.
 - **2014 Update** – The Village of Breckenridge and City of Ithaca has been working with Greater Gratiot Development to establish the first Agri-business certified park in the United States.

3. **Countywide Master Planning** – has saved municipalities money and has also improved the quality of the resulting master plan.
 - **Participants** - All villages, townships, cities in Gratiot County.
 - **Cost** - \$1 per parcel for each community
 - **Collaboration Benefits** – Uniformed Plan County Wide.

4. **Cable** – The Village of Breckenridge is a member of the Mid-Michigan Cable Consortium which provides administration, joint franchise negotiation, and operation of the Governmental, Public and Educational channels.
 - **Participants** – Alma, Arcada Township, Village of Breckenridge, Clare, Ithaca, Mount Pleasant, Pine River Township, Saint Louis, Village of Shepherd, and Village of Harrison.
 - **Cost** – The Village pays approximately \$4,800
 - **Collaboration Benefits** – With collaboration efforts the whole community can enjoy a state of the art studio. The consortium has the funds to protect the communities’ interest in franchise discussions and advocacy for legislation affecting cable companies.

5. **Brownfield Authority** –
 - **Participants** – All villages, Cities, and Townships in Gratiot County, and Greater Gratiot Development.
 - **Cost** – unknown
 - **Collaboration Benefits** – Greater Gratiot Development is responsible for all accounting and reporting for Brownfield Authorities. This saves the Village of Breckenridge from all accounting and reporting costs, along with training someone to learn all requirements of the Brownfield Authority. If there was a separate Brownfield Authority, it would need to be reported as a component unit with full disclosure. With the help from the GGDI it is easier for developers and for the municipalities.
 - In 2009 the village with the help of the Brownfield Authority was able to remove an old condemned gas station that was located in the center of the downtown district. Saving our community \$45,000.

6. **Grant Writing** – The Village of Breckenridge, along with the Cities of Alma, Ithaca, Saint Louis, Gratiot County, and Alma College jointly wrote a grant application for energy efficiency. Each governmental entity received an energy audit, businesses within the county received mini-grants to undertake energy efficiency projects.
 - **Participants** – Alma, Breckenridge, Ithaca, Saint Louis, Gratiot County, Alma College and United Way of Gratiot County.
 - **Cost** – unknown
 - **Collaboration Benefits** – With the help of the collaboration we were able to receive the grant. The money was distributed to each surrounding business to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings.

7. **Wind Ordinance** – There has been an ordinance passed for wind turbines within the county.
 - **Participants** – All villages, cities, and townships in Gratiot County.
 - **Cost** – No cost to the Village.
 - **Collaboration Benefits** – By sharing the same ordinance and same joint planning commission meetings, Gratiot County has attracted the attention of several wind farm developers. The wind farm will be the largest tax payer in Gratiot County, which also means more tax revenue for the townships, schools, and for the county.
 - **2014 Update** – There are now 3 wind farms operating in townships within Gratiot County.

8. **Liability Insurance** – The Village of Breckenridge is a member of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority this provides liability and property insurance for the village.
 - **Participants** – Over 200 cities, villages, townships, counties, and special districts.
 - **Cost** – The Village of Breckenridge contributes approximately \$17,500 annually.
 - **Collaboration Benefits** – The ability to gain affordable Liability Insurance.

9. **Worker's Compensation** – The Village of Breckenridge is part of the Michigan Municipal League's workers' compensation fund which handles worker's compensation claims.
 - **Participants** – 845 Michigan cities, villages, townships, and counties.
 - **Cost** – The Village of Breckenridge contributes approximately \$6,000 annually.
 - **Collaboration Benefits** – The ability to gain affordable workers comp insurance.

10. **Hazard Mitigation Plan** – The Village of Breckenridge worked with other municipalities and representatives from Gratiot County to develop a sufficient hazard mitigation plan.
 - **Participants** – Alma, Breckenridge, Ithaca, Saint Louis, townships within Gratiot County, Gratiot County, and the Michigan State Police.
 - **Cost** – unknown
 - **Collaboration Benefits** – The Village of Breckenridge did not have to take their time and efforts to take lead in preparing the Plan. The County took over the lead in preparing the Plan. Since we took on the Plan as a joint effort the Michigan State Police and the Federal Emergency Management Agency reviewed one plan instead of 24 separate plans.
 - **2014 Update** – This plan will be reviewed again in 2016.

11. **Breckenridge / Wheeler Sewer System** – the Village of Breckenridge and the unincorporated town of Wheeler have worked together to create the first ever sanitary system in Wheeler.
 - **Participants** - Breckenridge and Wheeler
 - **Cost** - No extra cost to the Village
 - **Collaboration Benefit** – without this collaborative agreement this would not have been possible for Wheeler. The benefit to the Breckenridge community would be additional sewer costumers.

- 12. Breckenridge / Wheeler Fire and Rescue** – The Village of Breckenridge and the Township of Wheeler have shared the cost of a volunteer fire and rescue department for decades.
- **Participants** - Breckenridge and Wheeler
 - **Cost** – Millage approved by voters
 - **Collaboration Benefits** – The Breckenridge/Wheeler Township area is located in a very rural farming region. There are many large grain storage and livestock operations in this region that require the standby protection of fire and rescue department. With this collaborative effort Breckenridge and Wheeler Fire and Rescue has established one of the highest rated departments in Mid-Michigan.
- 13. Certified Agribusiness Park** – Seeking status to implement a recognized Certified Agribusiness Park.
- **Participants** – Breckenridge and Ithaca
 - **Savings Cost** – Some legal fees shared with Ithaca
 - **Dates** – The process began in 2013. We received verbal confirmation of the accepted plan for from the State of Michigan.
 - **Barriers** – This concept has never been done in the State of Michigan. The ideas were shared, a plan created and language drafted.
 - **Success** – Once official letter is received. The Village of Breckenridge will have the first recognized Agribusiness Park in the State of Michigan.

Future Collaborations Carried Over from Last Year

The Village of Breckenridge is working hard on planning future collaborations. Some plans are far along in the planning process, and look very successful for the future. Others are in the very early stage of planning and cannot be determined how far they will end.

Zoning Codes - Developed common terminology for zoning and planning for the master plan. If we can manage to use the same terms for zoning, this will make it easier for developers to locate, grow, and expand in Gratiot County. Although there will be little cost savings for the communities in the overall outcome, but it will increase the job base and tax base of the community.

- **Participants** – All zoned cities, villages, and townships in Gratiot County.
- **Possibility for Success** – This could be very difficult to accomplish. It may be difficult to accomplish due to the different ideas we must agree on as a board for terminology.
- **Savings Cost** – If this becomes successful, the cost would be the future growth in the area over the time.
- **Timeline** – Desired to be completed by December 2015.
- **2014 Update** – Most are in agreement and may tackle this as part of the County Wide Master Plan update due to take place in 2015.

Inspection Services – The municipalities only provide building inspectors. For electrical, plumbing, and mechanical inspections, contractors must seek state inspectors. With only having state inspectors it creates frustrations since the state has cut back on how frequent inspectors are in the county. The municipalities would like to form an inspection service in Gratiot County.

- **Participants** – Alma, Breckenridge, Ithaca, Saint Louis, and Gratiot County.
- **Possibility for Success** – This has potential to be very success but first must be financially the right decision for all parties and approved upon.
- **Savings Cost** – Any costs or savings would be absorbed by the contractors.

- **Timeline** – Continue discussion throughout 2014. Target completion date June 2015.
- **Barriers** – Many different views and ideas to sort through.
- **2014 Update** – There have been a number of meetings in 2013. This may take approximately 2 years to complete once the decision is made to move forward.

Improving collaboration within the criminal justice – To improve the system such as video testimony for police officers for traffic cases, would like to start sending criminal cases to prosecutor electronically, also implementing of e-tickets for traffic violations. Breckenridge sends an officer to Ithaca a couple times a week to the prosecutor’s office. If officer’s had the ability to transmit information electronically, then officers could make a trip to Ithaca only when needed to sign paperwork. This would cut back on time and money.

- **Participants** – Gratiot County, Alma, Breckenridge, Ithaca, St. Louis.
- **Possibility for Success** – Very Successful
- **Savings Costs** – Savings to the Village of approximately \$30,000.
- **Timeline** – Completion by May 2014.
- **Barriers** – Countywide project made it difficult to complete individual phases as we had to wait for the larger departments to complete the phases which took longer than our department.
- **2014 Update** – In 2012, upgrades were made to the fire radios. Installations of the laptop computers are complete in all patrol cars. The Village of Breckenridge Police Department is waiting testing to go “live” with e-tickets.

Internal Savings

1. The Village of Breckenridge went through a complete restructuring in 2009. We changed from two supervisors for the DPW Department and Water/Sewer Department, to the Village Manager overseeing both departments and administrative staff. We were able to do this by making updates to our computers and software and employing quality people with a symbiotic understanding of the mission of our community. This restructuring resulted in eliminating two unnecessary positions between the office and the field. This had an overall savings of \$118,000 annually.
2. The Village made significant changes to the Police Department in 2010. We chose to go to a part time force with a full time Chief. The change created more scheduling challenges for the Chief; however the net result was an overall savings of \$25,000 annually and we did not compromise hours of patrol or safety to our residents.
2014 Update: Currently working under this restructured plan.
3. Currently we are working on additional cost savings measures between the Water/Sewer Department and the Police Department. We have changed our metering system to a radio read system. This system requires someone to drive all of the roads in our community once per month and collect the data using wireless transmissions. We are training our Chief of Police to operate this system allowing him to collect this data while performing his normal daily responsibilities. The projected overall savings will be \$3,000 annually.

2014 Update: Currently utilizing the Chief of Police to read water meters on a monthly basis.

New Potential Future Collaborations

1. **Road Salt** – The Village purchases road salt under the state contract. The Schools cannot purchase under this contract. We have worked with the school to supply them with needed salt for parking lots in the winter.
 - **Participants** – Village of Breckenridge and Breckenridge Community Schools
 - **Possibility of Success:** Very Likely. We are working under this agreement currently in 2014, but the bitter cold winter has made salt supply very low.
 - **Savings** – No Cost savings to the Village. The School realizes a significant cost savings.
 - **Barriers** – No barriers encountered. It was a very long, hard winter and supply was low.
 - **2014 Update** - We are working under this agreement currently in 2014, but the bitter cold winter has made salt supply very low.

2. **Library** – The Village Municipal Library is seeking discussion and participation on forming a District Library.
 - **Participants** – Unknown at this time. 2 governing entities are required to form a district library per the State Library Law.
 - **Possibility of Success:** Likely Possible, but unsure of support and if this is the best route for the people and the success of the Library.
 - **Savings** – No cost savings to the Village. Potential of operating millage to fund the Library.
 - **Barriers** – Internal issues, funding, and participation from two or more Governing entities.
 - **Timeline** – Secure two participating entities by April 2014. Process to be completed and approved by the State of Michigan by December 2014.