



September 16, 2015

Request for Proposal for Small Business Services

Marion CanDo! is Marion County's Local Economic Development Organization, per JobsOhio and the central Ohio regional economic development organization, Columbus2020.

Marion CanDo! recently completed a "Strategic Economic Priorities and Action Plan for 2015 to 2020" and an "Economic and Demographic Analysis of Marion County, Ohio." Both of these documents are available at www.marioncando.com, and both identified a gap in services to small businesses.

Marion CanDo! recognizes the value of a Small Business Support Center (SBSC) and is considering assisting an individual or organization to launch an SBSC to help navigate small business owners, startups and entrepreneurs through a variety of organizations serving Marion County.

In the eleven county Central Ohio Region, Marion County ranks last in the percentage of small businesses. This number needs to increase. The initial contract will be for 2016.

Please provide:

1. Statement of Interest and Intent
2. Statement of Experience
3. Network of agencies and/or plans to start-up and provide services/awareness
4. Metrics and Reporting
5. Cost to provide services

Please submit your proposal by 5pm October 1, 2015, to Director, Marion CANDO!, 222 West Center Street, Marion, OH 43302, or via email to dennyf@marioncando.com. A contract, pending funding, will be awarded by late 2015 or early 2016.


Gus Comstock, Director