

# Authorizing \$500,000 match funds for i6 Challenge Grant

City of Tacoma  
Community and Economic  
Development

City Council Meeting  
June 7, 2016  
ITEM 18

## Overview

- Request authority for the City Manager to commit up to \$500,000 in local repaid UDAG funds as a match to an i6 Challenge Grant
- City match activity would be acquisition of 2304 Jefferson Avenue if grant is awarded
- University of Washington-Tacoma is grant applicant

## Background

- Purpose is to form a biotech/health-focused accelerator with access to UWT, Madigan Army Medical Center and MultiCare
- Foster a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents

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## Issues

- Tacoma has limited entrepreneurship in biotech and health
- Vision 2025
  - Diversify the economy
  - Increase the number of living wage jobs
- 2016 City Manager Initiative: encourage growth of the biotech industry

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## Issues continued

- Health-focused entrepreneurs face cost/time barriers to clinical trials to prove innovation concepts
  - Puget Sound Life Science incubators/accelerators - King County
  - Less than 5% vacancy/rent \$45/ft+
  - Two hours drive from Madigan & MultiCare
- Madigan and MultiCare have data from 500,000 patients
- Testing ideas against this data speeds up innovation

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## Proposal



Biotechnology/Health-Based Accelerator

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## Proposed Structure

- City acts as landlord
- Non-profit organizes, funds, manages
- City acquisition is contingent on organization formation and capability
  - Funding and company recruitment

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## Outreach:

- University of Washington-Tacoma, Seattle
- Madigan Army Medical Center
- The Geneva Foundation
- AST
- Revalerio
- MultiCare Health System
- CHI Franciscan Health
- Economic Development Board
- University of Puget Sound

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## Outreach, cont'd.

- Catholic Community Services
- Potential startup companies
- Potential funders
- University students
- Funders of Nativity House
- State and federal officials
- Tribal officials

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## Recommendations

- On May 24, 2016, The City Council Economic Development Committee recommended approval of the matching funds commitment
- Staff recommends adoption of Resolution # 39464, authorizing the City Manager to commit up to \$500,000 in local repaid UDAG funds as a match to an i6 Challenge grant

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