



NEWS RELEASE

If you've been following the City Council meetings or reviewing the minutes on the City's website you've probably seen where the City acquired 80% grant funding to hire a financial consultant for an "Early Intervention Program". The purpose of the program is to establish short-term and long-term financial and managerial objectives that will strengthen the fiscal capacity of St. Marys government along with the integration of long-term community and economic development strategies that strengthen the City's tax base.

Concerns with the term "Early Intervention" have been raised and interpreted as meaning "financially distressed". Please know that the finances of city government are nowhere near distressed and the Early Intervention plan is a move by City Council to study different aspects of City Government by an unbiased set of eyes.

The Early Intervention Plan will review and address five specific measures of local government in order for us to move forward and continue to maintain a viable budget and to assure that we are taking every step possible to become more efficient in our day to day operations. The five specific measures are:

- 1) Expenditure reduction
- 2) Revenue enhancement
- 3) Implementation of long-term economic development strategies
- 4) Adoption of best management practices to achieve operating efficiencies
- 5) Pursuit of intergovernmental cost sharing strategies

City Council and City Government will be working with the Novak Consulting Group over the next six months in order to achieve our goal for the betterment of our city and the residents.