

**261—77.21 (15E) Consultation.**

**77.21(1)** The department shall consult with local governments and local economic development officials in regard to site development techniques. The department may contract with third parties to provide site development consultations regarding site development techniques directly to local governments and local economic development officials.

**77.21(2)** The department may charge a reasonable fee for consultation. A local government or local economic development official seeking assistance under subrule 77.21(1) shall make a request to the department and provide information requested by the department for use in formulating a fee estimate and work plan. Before any work is undertaken, the department shall provide a fee estimate to the interested local government or local economic development official and a description of the services that will be provided. The fee shall be reasonable and shall cover the department's costs of providing the service. The department may require the local government or local economic development official to enter into a contract that identifies the services to be performed and obligates the local government or local economic development official to pay the fee to the department or a third-party consultant for satisfactory completion of services.

**77.21(3)** Applicants are not required to seek consultation under the program to be eligible to apply for a certificate of readiness and may seek consultation from the department at any time.

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