

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday November 2, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Council Committee Members: BJ Swanson, Elli Brown, John Young, Kelly Kolb, Deni Hoehne, Joe Maloney

Staff: Wendi Secrist, Amanda Ames, Matthew Thomsen, Caty Solace, Jeffrey Bacon

Guests:

Call to Order at 9:03 a.m.

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

***US DOL H1-B One Grant Opportunity**

Ms. Secrist review the H1-B One Grant executive summary. Please see attached document.

The WDC is partnering with the Idaho Tech Council (ITC) and Boise State on the application. The funding stream for the grant comes from employers paying for an H1B visa. A portion of that money goes to this program to help prepare US workers for future opportunities in these industries/occupations. Funding under the grant will allow for the WDC to hire an additional federal project officer to administer the grant. ITC will act as a broker to recruit individuals who have a harder time accessing these types of career pathways. ITC would provide assessments and case management to connect with trainees with work-based learning opportunities. Once evaluated, the trainee will be matched up with the best training to meet their goals and work-based learning.

Ms. Secrist provided an overview of the Cyberdome, which would provide one of the work-based learning opportunities under the grant. While Boise State is the lead, all eight Idaho institutions will ultimately become involved in the Cyberdome.

The WDC will be responsible for the financial and fiduciary oversight of the program and grant activities. The request is for \$10 million over a four-year period to train 1,250 Idahoans. The Governor's office is supportive of this effort.

Will the FTE be reportable to the legislature?

- Any positions hired as temporary or contracted employees are taken to the legislature for approval with the budget request the next fiscal year. The additional positions will be paid for with federal funds and will be limited service positions. No state funds will be used for the FTE's.

How much of the funding is allotted for equipment for the Cyberdome?

- The numbers are still preliminary.

Will the program be available statewide?

- Yes, ITC will find the best training path for the individual and leverage all institutions statewide.

H1B's are not available for an entry level employee and some employer partners involved only produce entry level trainees. These trainees may not produce the outcomes anticipated.

- The grant is about creating a pathway for individuals to the occupations, not about getting them 100% qualified during the performance period. The grant has to be broad enough to cover the skill gaps and provide training for a number of different scenarios statewide. The certifications are not just about getting an individual a 4-year degree; it is about providing individuals a boost forward in their career plans. It must focus on individuals who are unemployed/unemployed.

The Committee expressed concern that some of the criteria of the grant may not help Idaho reach its 60% goals.

- There is not enough time in a four-year period for each individual to reach a bachelor's degree, but it will put them on a pathway to degrees.
- Is the goal for individuals to enter a pathway that will lead to a degree or industry recognized credential?
 - Yes.

How does advanced manufacturing play into the grant?

- Proposers have the option of 3 industries to focus their training on – information technology, advanced manufacturing and/or transportation. The data provided on H-1B visas for advanced manufacturing doesn't really align with Idaho's needs.

Is there a downside to applying for the grant?

- This funding stream can provide significantly more resources than what ITC and Boise State could likely access through the WDTF. Both entities had already started talking to us about sector grants. If Idaho is awarded the grant, the WDC needs to ensure that Idahoans get the most out of the program and find success. Outcomes need to be realistic, achievable, and beneficial to all of Idaho.

Motion by Ms. Swanson to approve the WDC, in partnership with ITC, apply for the H1B One Grant Opportunity for up to \$10 million. Second by Mr. Young. Motion carried.

***WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker ITN Review Process**

Ms. Secrist reviewed the current policy for selecting a service provider and procurement methodology.

This is the first time the RFP has been conducted for these services since 2005. Measures have been taken to ensure the process is fair and unbiased between potential bidders. In researching how other state/local boards have conducted their procurements, Ms. Secrist came across the use of an independent, 3rd party to help review the bids and score them.

Can the WDC hire the 3rd party?

- There is nothing in the bylaws that says we cannot. Ms. Secrist is working with the Division of Purchasing to ensure it is allowable under state procurement laws.

Is there any reason to believe that bidders would challenge any potential decision?

- It is important to move forward with the assumptions that it will be challenged at some point. The WDC staff is working to look at it from every angle to ensure that the process is neutral.

Motion by Mr. Young to approve the WDC use a 3rd party independent evaluator, in alignment with the State Procurement Act, to support the ad hoc committee in selecting the service provider for WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs. Second by Ms. Brown. Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Swanson to adjourn. Second by Ms. Brown.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.