

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



Deni Hoehne
Chair

John Young
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

514 W Jefferson St, Ste 131, Boise, ID 83702

Grant Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022

Time: 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Committee Members: Brian Cox, Jake Reynolds, ~~Jay Larsen~~, ~~Jeff Greene~~, Jenni Bradford, Joe Maloney, Kelly Kolb, Rico Barrera

Staff: Rebecca Watson, Matthew Thomsen, Stacy James, Wendi Secrist, Paige Nielebeck, Cassie Mansour, Cathy Solace, Jeffrey Bacon

Guests:

Called to order at 3:01 p.m.

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum met

Review Agenda – No changes

Review October 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Reynolds to approve the October 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Ms. Bradford. Motion carried.

WDTF Financial Summary

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Fiscal Year 2023 Budget
For the Period July 1, 2022 - October 31, 2022

WDTF				
State Expenditure Category	Budget	Actual	Under/(Over)	Actual %
Salary & Benefits	\$ 480,800	\$ 164,606	\$ 316,194	34%
Personnel	\$ 480,800	\$ 164,606	\$ 316,194	34%
Administrative Services & Supplies	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,027	\$ 2,973	50%
Communication Costs	11,349	2,417	8,932	21%
Computer Services & Supplies	26,100	9,014	17,086	35%
Contracts, Events & Other Council Activities	532,551	79,779	452,772	15%
Employee Development, Memberships & Subscriptions	7,250	900	6,350	12%
Employee Travel Costs	18,000	813	17,187	5%
Government Overhead & Insurance	6,750	6,460	290	96%
Rentals & Operating Leases	61,000	1,183	59,817	2%
Operating Budget	\$ 669,000	\$ 103,593	\$ 565,407	15%
Grand Total	\$ 1,149,800	\$ 268,198	\$ 881,602	23%

Trustee and Benefits	Beginning Balance	Disbursements	Ending Balance
Grant Reimbursement(s) Spending Authority	\$ 7,384,500	\$ 1,391,240	\$ 5,993,260

WDTF Financial Summary	
WDTF Cash Balance 10/1/2022	\$ 14,292,359
Revenue	239,927
Interest	22,370
Payments	1,048,513
WDTF Cash Balance 10/31/2022	\$ 13,506,144
Obligated Employer Grants	\$ 1,720,034
Obligated Industry Sector Grants	4,818,037
Obligated Innovation Grants	872,084
*Obligated Outreach Projects & Allocated Budget	699,158
**Short Term Financial Assistance Program	1,518,222
FY23 WDTF Admin Costs	565,407
Obligated Balance	\$ 10,192,942
Unobligated Balance	\$ 3,313,202
Proposals Under Review	2,763,846
Unobligated Balance if all funded	\$ 549,356

WDTF Revenue			
Month	Transfer In	Interest	Collection Cost
July	\$ 260,762	\$ 12,231	\$ 42,108
August	892,198	14,898	-
September	10,162	18,825	-
October	239,927	23,370	-
November			
December			
January			
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
FY23 Totals	\$ 1,403,049	\$ 69,324	\$ 42,108

**Includes all Outreach funding made available for the Committee to allocate for FY23.
**Includes all Launch funding made available for FY23.

Discussion:

- An additional \$2.9 million is expected to be transferred to the WDTF in this fiscal year. Next fiscal year, revenues are projected at \$5.4m.
- All these grants we will be considering today are large but are not exceeding any cap.

Micron Innovation Grant

Micron has recently announced a 15-billion-dollar expansion in Idaho that will substantially grow the semiconductor workforce over the next several years. Their proposed project will fund a staff for Idaho STEM Action Center who will support the expansion of the Externship program, stipends for the STEM Hub Directors to support teachers and industry in the more remote regions of Idaho, funds for marketing materials and outreach to increase awareness for both teachers and industry. Funding will also be used for stipends for educator externs to grow the program, paying for a total of 200 externs over a two-year period. Additionally, funds will help support the connection between students and employers by funding licensing for schools to access employer information on Pathful Connect. As part of the externs' projects, they will be tasked with adding information about their host site to Pathful Connect that students can access to learn more about careers in their area.

WDTF Request: \$3,450,000

Discussion:

- What is the license for high schoolers listed in the budget?
 - This would give every high school in the state access to Pathful Connect. (*Corrected: Removed "with 350 or fewer students". Funding will provide access for every high school in the state.*) The hope is that this will be integrated into the school's budget going into the future or will lead to funding partnerships for school districts.
- What does the license cost?
 - This is the school license cost breakdown –
 - \$1,500 a year for up to 100 Students
 - \$2500 for 101-350 Students
 - \$3500 for 351 or more Students
- This would support Micron as well as other industries throughout Idaho as it grows the STEM workforce statewide.
- Did the Council change the max for innovations grants?
 - There were no changes made to the innovation grant policy. This project qualifies for funding above the normal twenty-five thousand minimum because the project includes a work-based learning initiative.
- Micron is using this platform to challenge the state's other employers to champion students' connections to careers and opportunity.
- Is there any way this could be viewed by an outsider as a self-serving strategy?
 - The Council has funded other projects that support the goals and work done by the Council. The externship program was originally funded through an outreach proposal.
- How have we been reaching out to schools to get Pathful Connect into the hands of schools?
 - Council staff have been working with our partners on getting Pathful Connect into schools around the state over the last year mainly through outreach efforts.

- Micron has been a big supporter of STEM and education. Now that Micron has announced its expansion, there is a big need in the state to increase the awareness of STEM opportunities throughout the state.
- Who is doing outreach and recruitment?
 - John McFarlane and Matthew Thomsen have done most of the recruiting since the externship program began in 2019. This project will bring on a staff person to help with the additional workload. The STEM Hub Coordinators will also be utilized to support the expansion of the program by assisting with recruiting and other activities.
- Is this the best vehicle for funding Pathful-Connect?
 - This has been a highly collaborative effort to get it to this point. This partnership will be advantageous for the council since this has been a council-led initiative from day one.
- When evaluating this project against the innovation grant rubric it makes sense as the project scores high and hits several of the Councils goals.
- Where are these funds coming from and is this our job to administer?
 - This would potentially be a project that would be funded using ARPA funds. A funding source is something that will be addressed by the Executive Committee.

Motion by Mr. Reynolds to recommend approval of the Micron Innovation Grant in the full amount of \$3,450,000 to the Executive Committee. Second by Mr. Maloney. Motion carried.

Mountain View Hospital Industry Sector Grant

Mountain View Hospital (MVH) and Idaho Falls Community Hospital (IFCH), together with Idaho Healthcare Institute (IHI), a non-profit organization, will partner with the College of Eastern Idaho (CEI) to increase the number of CNAs entering the workforce by offering a Certified Nursing Assistant, Basic Life Support, and Assistance with Medication training. MVH, IFCH, and IHI will renovate, furnish, and equip a state-of-the-art training space of two classrooms with 12 training bays between them. This will help build capacity for fourteen students per class, with the possibility of five classes and five sessions every year.

WDTF Request: \$1,643,671.45

Discussion:

- Mountain View Hospital has gathered MOUs with multiple community partnerships.
- There are over 500 openings across the state for CNAs and some hospitals are paying traveling nurses to do the CNA duties which is a costly solution to a workforce shortage.
- Employers are partnering with their local college to expand training offerings to allow progression in their employees' careers.
- This is an industry Sector Grant so there's no cap. How will the scholarships be awarded?
 - This is not going to be offered to everyone, and the scholarships will be given to around half of the students. It's also clear that the employer is investing a significant amount of their own funds to expand this.
- Is renovation an area we are accustomed to funding?
 - Yes, we have funded LCSC, and CEI who had a portion of their grant go toward renovation.
- This seems to be going to one of the highest demand areas in our economy. Current CNA certifications don't meet industry demands for serving the quantity of students that employers

need. The application stated that in the last 12 months there have been 1,978 job postings for CNAs.

- Is there any chance that this reflects duplication?
 - This information is obtained from Burning Glass, which is, in theory, de-duplicated. There are also employers who only post 1 listing and leave it open all the time, whereas they need to hire 10 CNAs.

Motion by Mr. Barrera to recommend approval of the Mountain View Industry Sector Grant for the full amount of \$1,643,671.45 to the Executive Committee. Second by Ms. Bradford. Motion carried.

University of Idaho Industry Sector Grant – Forest Operations & Technology

To meet the demand for a skilled workforce within the logging industry, the University of Idaho and industry partners propose the development of a training, outreach, and workforce development program focused on increasing the workforce capacity and skills of equipment operators for logging operations in Idaho. This project proposes developing training curriculum and outreach efforts using equipment simulators and corresponding resources. The project targets three key groups: secondary school students; current logging workforces; and students enrolled in the Associate of Science in Forest Operations and Technology degree offered by the University of Idaho. Two primary means will support these efforts. The first is participation in career exploration and logging industry outreach events. The second focuses on developing an industry-endorsed logging equipment operator training program initially delivered as a component of the University of Idaho A.S. degree. These efforts will employ logging equipment simulators and applied instruction to provide a safe, cost effective, and accessible education, outreach, and training opportunity for project participants. The future development of a multi-week training course for logging equipment operations will also be explored to support workforce development needs and enhance industry competitiveness. Industry collaboration will ensure an effective and successful recruitment and training model.

WDTF Request: \$708,290.58

Discussion:

- The biggest ask in this request is equipment – specifically logging equipment simulators, a trailer, and a pickup truck.
- This is also funding personnel and mileage. Are we just paying for another FTE for the university? Part of why we ask for cash flow predictions is to estimate the timeline that it will take for a program to become self-sustaining.
- This program is an Associate of Science degree for Forest Operations and Technology.
- A large emphasis of this proposal is outreach to promote the logging industry.
- From a North Idaho perspective, there is a huge shortage of workers in logging and those workers are not getting any younger.
- The Committee wants to see more participation from U of I's MOU partners.
- During this 3-year grant cycle, are the employers going to get to use this equipment to train incoming workers?
 - Yes, that is part of the intended use of the equipment.
- Will this enable them to recoup or generate funds to sustain operations down the road?
 - During the Grant period the employers won't be charged for this service but after the grant period they could be.
- Have we done other grants like this?

- Yes, that would be Idaho Trucking Association Industry sector grant.
- The Committee is wondering why this grant is written to supplement the payroll of this U of I employee.
- The Committee would like to understand their path to sustainability and quantitative numbers in addition to qualitative support.
- The Committee requested staff go back to the applicant with these questions and will return to this application in the future.
- This application is tabled pending more information.

Learning How 2 Live Innovations Grant

LH2Ls goal is to provide advanced job training to inmates to ultimately reduce recidivism, homelessness, overdoses, and overall crime by bringing its Registered Apprenticeship Program, titled "Broadcasting, Film and Video Production" into Idaho Dept of Correction ("IDOC"). Initially, the intention was to bring a fully functioning media program into the Facility. As the project evolved, it developed into a 5-week program expanding to multiple facilities. There've been approximately 36 students who've entered and completed the course. As of now, none of the 36 who've completed have been released; they continue to produce educational content for the Institutional Educational Channel and local podcasts (KRJS-TV and YARDBUZZ). LH2L has partnered with IDOC Administration who've agreed to allow LH2L into IDOC facilities to offer Prison Education to Residents. LH2L will provide 9-week on-site training courses. Each course will provide ten students with soft skills, employability skills and A/V skills training. All equipment set-up for and during course will stay at Facility where classes will continue to be run by Residents and Staff upon LH2L departure. Training and connection to employment are critical to post-incarceration success; IDOC can meet a high demand skill, Audio/Video-Visual skills. LH2L will facilitate direct employment connections to its Graduates once released.

WDTF Request: \$411,884.00

Discussion:

- This training offers incarcerated individuals all kinds of opportunities and training in the audio/visual industries, specifically through broadcasting.
- This is a unique idea of a registered apprenticeship coming out of corrections.
- The Committee has a question about 70% of this grant going to personnel costs. How can that be justified and is it sustainable?
 - Mario is the one who developed and instructs it. This program will support incarcerated individuals.
 - This program earned an award from CTE last year. The employers that IDOC is contracted with use the promotional videos that these students produce to build their ad campaigns.
- This is a very admirable program but is it open to everyone or is it only available to inmates who will be closer to release and entrance into the workforce?
 - This program is open to everyone.
- How will this bring increased employment wages? And how can we accurately measure that from incarceration, to education, to release?
 - These are questions that the application does not fully address.
- The Committee elected to table this application until next month when we can revisit these questions.

Motion by Mr. Maloney to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.