

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR



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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 W Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

Grant Review Committee Meeting Minutes – October 27, 2020

Committee Members: Jay Larson, Michelle Stennett, Steve Widmyer, Brian Cox, Jeff Greene, Joe Maloney, Jake Reynolds, Rieo Barrera, Jenni Bradford, Sarah Griffin

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

Guests: Sarah Nash

Called to order at 2:02 PM

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review August 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Greene to approve the August 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Mr. Reynolds. Motion carried.

WDTF Financial Summary

WDTF Financial Summary - September 30, 2020	
WDTF Cash Balance 9-1-20	\$15,074,534
Revenue	\$8,499
Interest	\$6,072
Payments	\$430,440
WDTF Cash Balance 9-30-20	\$14,658,664
Obligated Employer Grants	\$1,590,431
Obligated Industry Sector Grants	\$2,726,600
Obligated Innovation Grants	\$175,372
*Obligated Outreach Projects & Allocated Budget	\$689,364
Short Term Financial Assistance Program	\$2,000,000
FY 20 WDTF Admin Costs	\$873,588
WDTF Obligated Balance	\$8,055,354
Unobligated Balance	\$6,603,310
Proposals Under Review	\$521,255
Unobligated Balance if all funded	\$6,082,055

*Includes all Outreach funding made available for the Committee to allocate for FY21.

WDTF FY21 Revenue	Transfer In	Interest	Collection Cost
July	\$288,860	\$9,995	
August	\$735,854	\$8,536	
September	\$8,499	\$6,072	
October			
November			
December			
January			
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
FY21 Totals	\$1,033,213	\$24,602	\$0

IRWA – Industry Sector Grant

Idaho Rural Water Association is requesting \$499,675.00. This project provides opportunities for incumbent workers and those interested in entering the Drinking Water and Wastewater industry. IRWA offers an Apprenticeship program for Class I or Class II operator’s license and continuing education for incumbent workers throughout the state. There are 20 training/certification activities offered by the IRWA. The IRWA has cited in their application that many of the trainings offered are required by state and federal law or they are required as part of as part of the registered apprenticeship program. The grant monies will go towards expanded equipment (Clevertouch Screen & Mobile Cart, two cameras in training room & warehouse, and microphones) to be housed in the Boise training center allowing for virtual delivery of hands-on and classroom training. This grant will also help support a full-time instructor, mentor wage reimbursement, tuition scholarships, study materials, travel expenses (as needed), and some loaner laptops. Expanded technology will allow IRWA to provide a more robust schedule of classes where participation is not limited by locale.

WDTF Request: \$499,675

Is the measure of success the fact that they are able to sit for exam sooner or become qualified sooner or does this program help to get actual certifications?

- Both. Individuals in the apprenticeship programs are able to meet the requirements for licensing at a faster pace than non-apprentices. For individual who already hold licenses, they need continuing education to keep their licenses.
- Prior to COVID this was not offered virtually. They anticipated people from around the state to come in person to their new facility to take the training. It can also be difficult for those in rural areas to cover travel costs. This is opening the opportunity for anyone to access the training from anywhere in Idaho.

- The industry is very regulated when it comes to licensing. There are clear education and certification requirements.

It is noteworthy that they have 112 employers in Idaho enrolling 175 employees in the training program.

This application is asking us to pay for equipment that will allow them to convert the training to virtual/remote instead of developing curriculum. Is there any CARES Funding for this?

- We do not know if IRWA has explored that or not. We do not have a CARES Funding appropriation to provide them CARES funding. A new proposal would have to go before CFAC.

They are the first industry association in the state to stand up their own apprenticeship program and be the sponsor of the program. They have played a leadership role in apprenticeships. The level of commitment from industry partners has been phenomenal.

Motion by Mr. Maloney to recommend approval of the IRWA Industry Sector Grant in the full amount of \$499,675. Second by Mr. Cox. Motion carried.

Palouse Pathways – Innovation Grant

Palouse Pathways is requesting \$21,580.00 to fund the Aligning Self Awareness with Career Exploration program. The grant will help develop and pilot a self-awareness and career exploration course that will be delivered virtually to underserved youth in the Palouse region of Idaho. The program will help guide youth and prepare them for post-secondary programs they are passionate about and in which they can make a livable wage. During the program students will have an opportunity to:

- identify and describe their unique strengths, values and interests,
- explore career possibilities based on strengths, values and interests,
- explore current career trends in the job market,
- explore college and training options related to careers of interest,
- and gain an understanding of the importance of networking and the complexity of careers.

WDTF Request: \$21,580

They are relying on volunteers to administer this. Are there concerns about sustainability?

- It is a concern from a sustainability standpoint. It is a problem for any program paid or volunteer. There are enough people involved in the project they should have a good source of volunteers.

Will there be any kind of background check or fingerprinting for the volunteers who are interacting with the youth?

- Mr. Thomsen is unsure. He will get additional information from the entity.

Motion by Ms. Griffin to recommend approval of the Palouse Pathways Innovation Grant in the full amount of \$21, 580. Second by Ms. Bradford. Motion carried.

November and December Committee Meetings Discussion

The November Grant Review Committee meeting is schedule for November 24 and the December meeting is schedules for December 22. Both of these meetings fall near a holiday. Knowing that the Committee can have challenges meeting quorum, the WDC staff wanted to see if the Committee would like to reschedule or keep the regularly scheduled meetings.

Will there be grants needing review?

- Yes. There will be a few applications for the November and December meetings.

Ms. Nielebeck will send out an inquiry to Committee members asking if they are available for a meeting on the dates above.

**Motion by Ms. Griffin to adjourn. Second by Mr. Cox. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM**