

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR



Deni Hoehne
Chair

B. J. Swanson
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 W Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

Grant Review Committee Meeting Minutes – December 22, 2020

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

Staff: Wendi Secrist, Matthew Thomsen, Paige Nielebeck, Amanda Ames

Guests:

Called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review October 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Maloney to approve the October 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Senator Stennett. Motion carried.

WDTF Financial Summary

WDTF Financial Summary - November 30, 2020	
WDTF Cash Balance 11-1-20	\$14,820,740
Revenue	\$588,911
Interest	\$5,553
Payments	\$148,730
WDTF Cash Balance 11-30-20	\$15,266,474
Obligated Employer Grants	\$1,184,899
Obligated Industry Sector Grants	\$3,226,275
Obligated Innovation Grants	\$159,698
*Obligated Outreach Projects & Allocated Budget	\$976,597
Short Term Financial Assistance Program	\$1,996,151
FY 20 WDTF Admin Costs	\$773,051
WDTF Obligated Balance	\$8,316,671
Unobligated Balance	\$6,949,804
Proposals Under Review	\$21,945
Unobligated Balance if all funded	\$6,927,859

*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	\$306,682	\$5,828	
November	\$588,911	\$5,553	\$8,553
December			
January			
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
FY21 Totals	\$1,928,806	\$35,983	\$8,553

The WDTF is a dedicated fund so the fiscal year/calendar year does not matter. The funds carry over year to year.

Idaho State University – Innovation Grant

Idaho State University Continuing Education and Workforce Training has applied for an innovation grant to create a test preparation program for the Property and Casualty Licensure exam that will use storytelling and visual animation. This program will make it easier for individuals to process and retain the concepts of property and casualty insurance. The Southeast Idaho Region is home to two major insurance provider centers, Allstate Call Center and Idaho Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance. Both employers have expressed frustration in finding qualified individuals to work as agents in their companies. Furthermore, due to changes to the laws and regulations surrounding the insurance industry, policy processing clerks working in property and casualty insurance agencies are required to have a Property and Casualty license to make any adjustments to policies relating to clients' property. This requires independent agencies to hire licensed individuals or train current staff to pass the test in order to work as processing clerks.

WDTF Request: \$21,945

ISU is planning to train 50 people, 25 of which will be incumbent workers.

Idaho Power has been using a similar story-telling format for training. The format is interactive and engaged versus sitting through a PowerPoint presentation. Interactive programs tend to have more of an impact on learners. This program is geared to all different types of learners.

ISU is trying to come up with a better way to train individuals because the individuals are not passing their licensing exam.

The funds will be used as startup funds. ISU is not charging participants for the first year, but students will be charged in the future to keep the program sustainable. ISU will also be sharing the program with other workforce training centers across the state.

Is this challenge in this region only because of the Farm Bureau and Allstate? Is this an issue in other areas of the state?

- Labor Insight shows there is a statewide need. Even in rural counties and larger areas need training.

Is the training going to need to be updated every year or will it be able to last 10-15 years?

- Mr. Thomsen did not get the longevity of the training from ISU. Any content that is specific to what is required under law and policy will need to be updated as law and policy is updated.

This could take the place of the other standalone trainings that someone could decide to choose or is this more of a study tool after the training?

- It is to replace the current training. It is a start-to-finish training.

There are several letters of intent from other organizations. What are they agreeing to?

- Innovation grants require that there is community involvement. ISU has several employers who are saying they would hire as well as provide support to this program.
- It is important that ISU is ensuring the training is relevant and are working with so many different employers.

Motion by Ms. Griffin to recommend approval of the ISU Innovation Grant in the full amount of \$21,945. Second by Mr. Greene. Motion carried.

Upcoming Grants Discussion

With only one grant on the agenda. We felt this was a good opportunity to talk about upcoming grants.

- TVCC – Industry Sector: \$590,658.58 (January)
- U of I Molten Salt Battery Project – Industry Sector: \$1.7 million (January)
- BSU Telehealth – Industry Sector: \$175,000-\$190,000 (February)

That comes to nearly \$2.5 million in grants in the first quarter. There are quite a few applications in process of submission. Mr. Thomsen is reaching out to them to chat with them about where they are in the process and see what their plan is.

Motion by Mr. Larsen to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.