

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



Deni Hoehne
Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 W Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

Grant Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Time: 3:00PM-4:30 PM

Location: Zoom

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

Staff: Jeffrey Bacon, Matthew Thomsen, Amanda Ames, Stacy James

Guests: Tony Prka, Marita Diffenbaugh

Called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review August 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Cox to approve the August 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Ms. Griffin. Motion carried.

Review September 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Cox to approve the September 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Ms. Griffin. Motion carried.

WDTF Financial Summary

Discussion:

The Committee will review the 2022 cashflow projections in more detail at the next meeting.

Employer Grant Reimbursable Expenditures Discussion

Discussion:

- Executive Committee inquired as to a list of preferred traits to share with the Council and Policy Committee.
- Grant Committee reviewed precedence set with the historical high dollar awards, repetitive applicants, and its sustainability on a go-forward basis.
- Grant Committee will discuss at next meeting how the grant review rubrics may be used as a tool to frame future policy adaptations.

Elevate Academy - Industry Sector Grant

Elevate Academy is building a new facility in Post Falls. The grant request is specific to the new Post Falls site and seeks funding for equipment and personnel for the career technical education school. The mission is to make connections between education and career opportunities for participating students (targeting 6th-12th grade students meeting the states at-risk qualifications). The Post Falls center will focus on construction, welding/manufacturing, business/marketing, health professions, culinary arts, drones/technology, and potentially aerospace. In as early as three years the Post Falls center will have a graduating class.

Mr. Thomsen visited the existing Caldwell school.

- Its non-traditional structural design was noticeably open and welcoming.
- It was visible the faculty actively work with local industry to further the connectivity between curriculum and employer needs.

WDTF Request: \$869,956

Discussion:

Is there a foreseen need within the community?

- The facility analysis scored the program need “Well” overall.
- Addresses the need for a broader talent pipeline targeting at-risk and providing those at-risk multiple choices for schooling.
- CTE schools like Elevate Academy, need to procure additional funding as they are more costly to operate than traditional schools.

Motion by Ms. Griffin to recommend approval of the Elevate Academy Industry Sector Grant in the full amount of \$869,956 to the Executive Committee. Second by Mr. Reynolds. Motion carried.

Artisan Labs - Employer Grant

Artisan Labs is a cosmetic manufacturer in Hansen, located near Twin Falls. The employer is expanding, bringing on a projected 42 employees, adding \$1.2 million in facility improvements and \$924,000 in equipment investments. The employer has found it difficult to hire workforce with needed skills and is willing to train new employees with the necessary skillsets.

WDTF Request: \$51,939

Discussion:

- The rural location limits access to qualified candidates.

- Employer has retained qualified third-party vendors to train in biology, genetics, and immunology.

Motion by Ms. Griffin to recommend approval of the Artisan Labs Employer Grant in the full amount of \$51,939 to the Executive Committee. Second by Ms. Bradford. Motion carried.

Sun Valley Culinary Institute – Industry Sector Grant

Sun Valley Culinary Institute (Institute) is requesting funding for a Culinary Director. The Institute has already received a \$25,000 Innovation Grant to develop the curriculum. The program, in 3 years, will train 34 participants with an expected 26 graduating. The Institute also has a commitment from College of Southern Idaho (CSI); its graduates may continue their training and register for the CSI Culinary Program Year 2.

Sun Valley has once again been named the #1 ski resort. The area is expected to see more of a need for workers trained in the culinary arts as a result.

30 plus job openings in past 12 months have been advertised for the culinary field. These openings if filled, currently require the employee's relocation. This program would help train individuals currently located in the area and give opportunities to those in high school who are looking to stay in their hometown.

WDTF Request: \$150,000

Motion by Mr. Reynolds to recommend approval of the Sun Valley Culinary Institute Industry Sector Grant in the full amount of \$150,000 to the Executive Committee. Second by Ms. Griffin. Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Griffin to adjourn. Second by Mr. Kolb. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.