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Chair

Sarah Griffin
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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

Workforce Development Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2025

Committee Members: Hope Morrow, Lori Barber, ~~Christi Rood Gilchrist, Jason Hudson~~, Tom Kealey, Daniel Puga, Jani Revier, John Smith, ~~Scott Bedke~~

Staff: Wendi Secrist, Isabelle Jenkins, Rebecca Watson, Sherawn Reberry, Denise Hill

Guests: Kelly Kolb, WDC Grant Review Committee Chair

Call to Order at 2:03 P.M.

Welcome **Hope Morrow, Chair**

- *Roll Call*
- *Review Agenda*
- ***Review January 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes***

Motion by Ms. Barber to approve January 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Ms. Revier. Motion carried.

Grant Committee Report and Policy Recommendations **Wendi Secrist, Kelly Kolb**

- Grants Report
- ***Employer Grant Policy Recommendations, decision pushed to March meeting***
- ***Employer Grant Rubric Recommendations, decision pushed to March meeting***
- ***Grant Review Committee Procedures and Guidelines Recommended Changes; decision pushed to March meeting***
    - ***Discussion:***
        - Entry level wage needs increase
        - Possibly use county wage, percent of average county wage
        - Possibly use occupation rather than the county wage, cannot be less than the 25th percentile
        - IDOL already publishes these on their Quantitative funding model – IDOL looks at individual occupations
        - Recommendation is to increase and review on a schedule
        - Bumping too high could adversely affect rural areas
        - Possibly use Burning Glass data for occupations
        - Is a method preferred rather than a flat number
        - Regional variations, job classification

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- Decision: Entry level wage must be no lower than the 25th percentile wage for the occupation at the IDOL regional level. If no wage exists at that level, default to the state level.

- Fund availability
  - Maximum amount of funds available to an employer is $500,000 per grant and $750,000 over a ten-year period
    - Recommendation is to change to $250,000 and $750,000
  - Award amounts are determined by the quantitative funding model
  - Current cap implemented December 2021
  - Need to ensure balance across state
  - Grant length is 2 years
  - A change would have no impact on the current pipeline
  - New grant phase, $2M available annually, desire is to spread the funds wider
  - Quantitative funding model used, Mr. Thomsen communicates with requestors to adjust their budget or request changes to meet the model
  - Consider possibly reducing the award per employee in the QFM
  - Are these grants still meaningful if we drop the amount
  - Most training indicated is non-credit, cost is a concern as most requestors do not have a lot of other options for funding

Allowance for Basic Technical Certificates, Adult LAUNCH

- Currently Adult LAUNCH does not cover Basic Technical Certificates
- The question is do we open all 63 or a particular industry
- Most are for credits
- Great steppingstone to a great career
- Programs are PELL eligible
- Are we in a position financially without exhausting the fund, turning the program off and on is not good
- Adults 80% up to $3,500
- If they have other resources, LAUNCH is applied last
- These are allowed as part of the student program
- $3M of $10M is currently obligated

Motion by Ms. Revier to expand the Adult LAUNCH program to include the Basic Technical Certificates program list as presented. Second by Mr. Kealey.

Discussion:

- Does address the re-entry issue, yes

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Motion carried.

Student LAUNCH Framework Update – Prioritizing on Financial Need

- Tax commission Update
  - If the student is a dependent on more than one return, their return is used
  - What number would we use from the return, adjusted income minus household deduction
    - Idaho taxable income line 19, the language in policy is simple "lowest to highest"
    - If tax commission does calculation, need to be specific on what to exclude from adjust gross income
  - Language in prioritization of Grant Awards is a simple change
  - How do you apply it
    - The current statute says by In-Demand careers, and if additional funds remain then by income
    - 2025 should be able to be done by In-Demand
  - In order by In-Demand, then application date and time, then financial need

Motion by Ms. Barber to recommend adopting the proposed language change to the Student LAUNCH Framework regarding prioritization to include financial need when necessary. Second by Ms. Revier. Motion carried.

Additional comments:

- Statute will always trump policy
- There will be several scenarios that we may find a need to review
- Self-reporting process is a large lift
- Goal is to keep it simple
- Tax commission has been great to work with
- Will do a test run of last year's kids to ensure the viability of the data

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Barber. Second by Mr. Puga. Motion carried.
Adjourned at 3:23 p.m.