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Sarah Griffin
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

514 W Jefferson St, Ste 131, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

Grant Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025
Time: 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Committee Members: Jake Reynolds, ~~Jay Larsen~~, Jeff Greene, ~~Joe Maloney~~, Kelly Kolb, ~~Rico Barrera~~, Adrian San Miguel, ~~Amanda Logan~~, Sergio Mendoza

Staff: Denise Hill, Matthew Thomsen, Isabelle Jenkins, Amanda Ames, Rebecca Watson, Stacy James

Guests:

Call to order at 3:11 PM

Welcome

Kelly Kolb, Chair

Roll Call – Quorum met

Review Agenda

Review January 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. San Miguel to approve January 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Mr. Mendoza. Motion carried.

WDTF Financial Report

Matthew Thomsen

- WDTF transfers in & Interest
- \$163,365.52 January
- \$40,604.38 February
- End of year \$2.2M if all 3 grants today are approved

Policy Committee

Matthew Thomsen

- Met last Tuesday
- Committee did not come to a decision for recommendations from the Grant Committee
- March Policy meeting, committee will revisit topic
- Discussion about the \$12 minimum wage requirement
- In favor of adjusting, conversation was on how to do that

- Employer grant amount discussion, recommend it come down, committee asked what the reason for the change
- Suggestion to look at qualitative funding model to reduce the cost per employee rather than the grant thresholds in policy
- Information was provided on average grant amounts
- Request to lower threshold allows for more grants at lower cost

Grant Committee Schedule

Matthew Thomsen

- March – Policy review and discuss plan for full day review in April
- April – meet in person, full day grant review
 - 10 – 12 grants possible, will provide 2 weeks for review
- Poll to committee regarding April 22 participation

***WDTF Grant Requests**

Kelly Kolb

Far and Wise Innovation Grant

Through this project, Far and Wise will expand their Trade and Vocational Camps (TVCs) and implement a Pre-Apprenticeship (PA) Work-Based Training Programs to provide hands-on career exploration and skill development for students in the Blaine County School District. With WDC funding, they will grow Their TVC program from 4 camps serving 50 students in 2023 to at least 30 camps serving 180 (with capacity to serve 350) students over the next two years. These camps introduce middle and high school students to various careers through experiential learning, with sessions ranging from short summer camps to longer weekly programs. Additionally, they are launching four new PA programs, combining training with paid internships for 40 high school juniors, seniors, and recent graduates over two years. These programs will focus on Hospitality/Mountain Operations, Construction, Senior Care, and Automotive, each pairing structured classes with 10-week internships to equip students with industry-specific skills and connect them with local employers facing workforce shortages. WDC funding will support program administration, TVC contracted services, student stipends, and Virtual Reality equipment for select camps.

Amount Requested: \$250,005.00

Discussion:

- Blaine County
- Non-profit working with school district
- \$113,437 match
- Apprenticeship program is more of an internship
- 4 programs – mountain operations, construction, senior care, automotive
- Very conservative, possibly serve 350. 180 definite with 40 place in pre-apprenticeships for a total of 220
- Opportunity does not exist outside this program
- Hands on makes this a strong application
- Good employer involvement
- Good wage potential
- Score: 70%
- Project began based on community feedback
- Good project, fresh start, new awardee

Motion by Mr. Reynolds to recommend approval of the Far and Wise Innovation Grant in the amount of \$250,005.00 to the Executive Committee. Second by Mr. Mendoza.

Additional Discussion:

- Doesn't feel that we will see great return on the individual level, but more on the industry side
- Are we getting folks to an appropriate wage level, some assumptions on how well it will do
- Very specific to an area rather than the state as a whole
- Based on existing program from 2023, ramping it up from this funding
- Provides opportunity to rural areas around the area
- Sustainability of the workforce may not be solved by this project
- Hope training is for long term and not seasonal only
- Safeguards are in place, grants are reimbursements; must provide make and documentation including SSN for those going into internships

Motion carried.

Elevate Academy Industry Sector Grant

Elevate Academy East is an alternative charter school serving Idaho Falls, Ammon, and surrounding areas, dedicated to serving at-risk students in grades 6-12. Through hands-on, purpose-driven education, students explore eight different trades, narrowing their focus to two by high school graduation. The Academy will be fully operational by Year 3, adding 11th and 12th grades in Years 2 and 3, respectively. Funding will be used to acquire essential equipment for rigorous, hands-on training across three CTE pathways: welding, construction, and precision machining. As a result, students will graduate with certifications that make them workforce-ready, addressing regional labor shortages and providing a skilled talent pool for local employers. Elevate-East Idaho will serve a total of 488 students during the grant who will engage in each of the programs offered at the Academy. By the end of the grant period, 60 students will complete their training, equipping them with the skills needed to enter the workforce and contribute to local industry needs.

Amount Requested: \$259,280.00

Discussion:

- Eastern Idaho
- Serve grades 6-12 at-risk students in Idaho Falls
- Target is 488 students
- 3 pathways, welding, construction, and machining
- Just opened not at yet full capacity
- Hands on learning and career exploration
- 3 employer partners
- 6 – 8 career exposure, then specialize
- Lower completer due to nature of the school
- Institution gets some funding from CTE to help sustain the program for materials
- Hard to expand with CTE only, Establishment Grant when it is a new program only
- Credentials received – QOSA10 certs, AWS certification, badges skill stack badges (pg 5)
- Score: 70%
- Sustainability, reviewing budget; one-time purchases for start up
- Match rate review scoring detail, this grant is all in-kind which is a 1

- Score adjusted to 68%
- Note: Review rubric for future
- Sustainability feels good as funding is not focused on equipment and materials
- Elevate north 334 anticipated, 288 trained – literal view, did or did not meet “previous” – Note: rubric review in future
 - Grant approved in 2021, delayed due to construction and supply chain issues; above 84% completion is a win
 - All grants during this time struggled more than normal
 - Different regions so hard to compare
 - Do we need a threshold

Motion by Mr. Kolb to recommend approval of the Elevate Academy Industry Sector Grant in the amount of \$259,280.00 to the Executive Committee. Second by Mr. Reynolds. Motion carried.

Quorum Lost, North Idaho College Innovation Grant request tabled until committee March meeting.

Committee Discussion:

- LAUNCH takes 60% of the WDTF
- Limited funding compared to the past does not seem to have reduced the number of grants we are seeing

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Reynolds. Second by Mr. Mendoza. No objections.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM