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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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

Grant Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Committee Members: ~~Jay Larsen~~, Joe Maloney, Kelly Kolb, Rico Barrera, Adrian San Miguel, Sergio Mendoza, ~~Ben Davidson~~, Todd Putren, Catherine McClure, Christi Gilchrist, Martha Luna

Staff: Denise Hill, Amanda Ames, Tina Polishchuk, Alyssa Williams, Chad Lahti, Jan Whiting, Meliah Anchustegui

Call to order at 10:09 PM — **Kelly Kolb, Chair**
Welcome
Roll Call, Introductions

Review April 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Mendoza to approve April 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes. Second by Mr. Putren. Motion carried.

WDTF Financial Report — Amanda Ames

- For period ending May 31, 2026
- FY26 annual report available in August
- Obligated balance $19.5M, unobligated $6.5M
- Proposals under review $2.6M, unobligated balance if funded $3.8M

WDTF Grants Requests — Kelly Kolb

- ***Idaho Forest Group Employer Grant***

Idaho Forest Group (IFG) is developing an Automation and PLC Training Lab to meet the growing need for highly skilled controls technicians and industrial electricians across its increasingly automated Idaho sawmill operations. The lab will provide hands-on training that replicates real production processes allowing new and existing employees to build critical troubleshooting, programming, networking, and automation skills safely and consistently without relying on live production downtime. The project supports a structured career pathway through a defined tier progression, enabling meaningful wage growth and promotability tied to skill attainment. Grant funds will support the purchase of necessary equipment, while IFG will provide In Kind personnel training hours and an expansion to accommodate

the training equipment.
Amount Requested: $95,000.00
Discussion:

- QFM score 61
- Positions align with In-demand
- 1st application with WDC
- Budget is all equipment, used and will refurbish as needed
- Strong in-kind match
- Rubric score 92

Motion by Mr. Mendoza to approve the Idaho Forest Group Employer Grant in the amount of $95,000. Second by Mr. Putren. Motion carried.

- ***Blaine County Charitable Fund Innovation Grant***

The Blaine County Charitable Fund (BCCF) is implementing an internship for a Master of Social Work student already living in the community. The internship provides hands on training in case management, resource navigation, crisis response, and community collaboration. The internship is supported by job shadowing with partner organizations allowing the intern to gain skills directly aligned with employer identified needs. This project builds a sustainable rural talent pipeline, improves service capacity, and increases the likelihood of long-term workforce retention in Idaho's human services sector. Funding will support the intern stipend, training costs, and essential equipment, while BCCF will provide in kind supervision and mentorship.
Requested Amount: $14,575.00
Discussion:

- 1st application
- Only supporting 1 trainee
- Skills are transferable
- Student is from out of state
- Internship
- Executive Committee recommended a retention component if approved
- Letters of intent from St. Luke's, The Senior Connection, The Hunger Coalition, and Sun Valley Economic Development
- Can they replicate this going forward for future requests
- Rubric score 54%

Motion by Mr. Putren to deny the Blaine County Charitable Fund Innovation Grant in the amount of $14,575.00. Second by Mr. Maloney.
Discussion:

- Concerns about replicability
- Focused on training one individual
- No plan for retention of trainee
- Minimal detail of credentials to be obtained or transferability of skills gained
- Reapplication possible

Motion carried.

- ***Inspire Excellence – Teens to Trades Innovation Grant***

The Teens 2 Trades Leadership & Mentorship Program is a year-long workforce development initiative designed to strengthen Idaho's construction trades talent pipeline by equipping youth ages 16–24 with the leadership, professional, and career navigation skills needed for long-term success. By pairing

participants with industry mentors and providing workshops, job-site experiences, networking, and a statewide leadership summit, the program complements existing technical training. This approach strengthens school to jobsite transitions, supports early career retention, and prepares emerging workers to succeed and advance within Idaho's construction trades industry. Grant funds will support cohort supplies and training materials, cohort site visits, cohort recruitment, cohort engagement events, cohort guest speakers and mentors, and miscellaneous cohort supplies. Inspire Excellence will provide Cash Match for the annual leadership summit costs.
Amount Requested: $25,000.00
Discussion:

- Initially was one event revised for multiple events
- Only in region 3
- Age aligns with youth apprenticeships
- Leadership skills are needed, but is this the right forum
- Rubric score 55%
- 325 trainees, efficient budget
- Perhaps an Outreach project or AGC
- Funding is predominately for Leadership cohort

Motion by Mr. Putren to deny the Inspire Excellence- Teens to Trades Innovation Grant in the amount of $25,000.00 and suggest application for an Outreach Grant. Second by Mr. San Miguel. Motion carried.

- ***Treasure Valley Family YMCA Innovation Grant***

The Treasure Valley Family YMCA, in partnership with Lee Pesky Learning Center and North Idaho College, is launching Idaho's first Early Childhood Educator Registered Apprenticeship (ECE RA) program to address severe workforce shortages in the early childhood education sector. This project creates a scalable "earn and learn" model that integrates paid on the job training with college coursework, individualized academic coaching, and classroom-based mentoring. Over two years, the program will support 25 apprentices across three cohorts in earning Child Development Education, helping them access higher wages and long-term career pathways. Funding will support program coordination, instruction, mentoring, and development of a statewide ECE RA Playbook to guide replication.
Requested Amount: $258,708.00
Discussion:

- Aligns with in-demand careers
- Currently have a Child Care Expansion Grant
- Large turnover in industry
- Intent is to replicate
- Rubric score 77%

Motion by Ms. Gilchrist to approve the Treasure Valley YMCA Innovation Grant in the amount of $258,708.00. Second by Mr. Putren. Motion carried.

- ***Idaho Business for Education Innovation Grant***

Idaho Business for Education (IBE) is expanding its statewide Youth Apprenticeship Program to address Idaho's skilled labor shortage by connecting youth ages 16–24 with paid, career connected training in high demand fields. Through partnerships with employers, schools, and state agencies, IBE develops registered apprenticeship pathways tailored to real workforce needs, with priority for rural and underserved communities. Apprentices earn wages while receiving structured on the job training and

related technical instruction, ensuring direct alignment between education and workforce needs. The project will support 150 apprentices, with an expected 120of those earning recognized credentials and measurable wage growth while strengthening Idaho's long term talent pipeline. Grant funding will support personnel costs, travel, accounting, contracted services, marketing, and miscellaneous supplies while IBE will provide In Kind for Supportive Services.
Amount Requested: $500,000.00
Discussion:

- Funding earmarked by Council in March pending Committee review
- Original request $1M over 2 years
- Council recommended $500K for 1 year
- Required to apply for grant
- Parameters can be added by Committee
- Council required fundraising effort, $135K raised as of May
- Good partner and support provided
- Letter of support CTE Future Readiness Center
- 7 employees
- Prior contract, good data and information provided
- Current funding ends September 2026, this grant would pick up then
- Would like to see synergy across the state
- IBE is part of the apprenticeship board
- Would like to see more external funding
- Does not include supportive services funding
- Funding mainly for support of apprentices
- Rubric score 67%

Motion by Mr. Mendoza to approve the Idaho Business for Education Innovation Grant in the amount of $500,00.00. Second by Mr. Putren.
Discussion:

- Continue to ensure we are on the right track
- Sustainability is a question

Motion carried.

Unanimous consent motion by Mr. Maloney to adjourn. No objections.

Meeting adjourned 1:38 PM