

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



Trent Clark
Chair

B. J. Swanson
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 West Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: Friday, April 24, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 pm

Council Committee Members: Trent Clark, BJ Swanson, Jeff McCray, John Young, Deni Hoehne, ~~Joe Maloney~~

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

Guests:

Call to Order at 1:01 PM

Roll Call – quorum met

Review Agenda

No additions to the agenda

Application for USDOL Youth Apprenticeship Grant

Ms. Secrist was informed of an opportunity to apply for a grant from USDOL to support youth apprenticeship efforts. Idaho already has two USDOL apprenticeship grants so there is a little concern with applying for another grant and over-saturating the apprenticeship system. The WDC is also working with Idaho Business for Education (IBE) on a WDTF innovation grant to identify a youth apprenticeship system model that will work for Idaho. Ms. Secrist has talked with IBE, CTE, the State Board of Education, and the Governor's Office and they all feel the grant should be pursued. Ms. Secrist provided an overview of the requirements of the grant and what the grant proposal might look like. Please see attached document.

The level of funding available through the USDOL youth apprenticeship grant could provide a solid foundation for the youth apprenticeship model IBE is working to create.

Could the WDC work with any of the WDTF grant recipients to help incorporate apprenticeships (e.g. Sun Valley Culinary Institute)? These entities are trying to gain skilled workers.

- That would be part of the strategy of the USDOL grant. The WDTF funds awarded to the grantees used to produce apprenticeships could be used as leveraged funds in the USDOL grant.

Since this is a federal DOL grant, are the apprenticeships limited to federal DOL programs or any program registered in the state of Idaho?

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- The apprenticeship programs must be registered with USDOL. That is a clear stipulation of the grant. This is an advantage to high school students and allows the students to have apprenticeships in occupations they might not have been able to have an apprenticeship in otherwise. The WDC will still be able to promote other types of apprenticeships but would have to be very careful that no expense for that promotion gets mixed in with expenses for the USDOL grant. None of the federal funds can be used for anything outside of USDOL registered apprenticeships.
- Is every registered apprenticeship program in Idaho a registered DOL program?
 - Yes, there is only one "registration" process in Idaho, regardless of how IDOL is involved. Registered means that it is formally recognized by USDOL. There are also non-registered apprenticeships that exist primarily under the electrical, plumbing and HVAC programs. The Division of Building Safety does not require programs to be registered so it is the employers' choice.

The USDOL grant would fund the youth apprenticeship model IBE is researching. The ultimate goal will be to create a model that will not rely on government or grant funding in the future.

This is the first time USDOL is offering a grant opportunity like this one. Right now, the requirements of the grant are flexible, and that flexibility will offer Idaho an advantage in getting a youth apprenticeship model started.

Is the USDOL grant renewable?

- This USDOL grant does not say if they will be offering renewals. USDOL will evaluate at the performance metrics before deciding to offer more funding.

Do the 400 apprentices have to be new or can they be apprentices already in the pipeline?

- The grant would likely exclude apprentices who were registered before July 1, 2020. Apprentices who are in the pipeline, but not yet registered at that time would be able to be included.

What is the timeline of the USDOL grant?

- The application is due May 6. The performance period will begin on July 1 according to the RFP.

A portion of the funds should be set aside for wage support for apprentices, given the financial difficulties employers are experiencing due to the COVID-19 crisis. A lot of companies have hiring freezes and so the willingness to bring on a high school apprentice may be low. It might be a struggle for a business to handle that expense during this time. Offering the wage support might be a necessary incentive for the business to sign up for the program.

- There are also other funding opportunities (such as Jobs for the Future) that can be used to support employer incentives. Ms. Secrist will share this information with Mr. McCray.

What is the difference between supported services for apprentices and the wage supplements?

- Supportive services would be used for tools, car repairs, gas cards, etc. It supports things the apprentice would need in order to work.

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- Does a budget have to be part of the application?
 - Yes, a very high-level budget is required. The budget will show how much is anticipated for wage incentives and how much for support services. There are other funding streams that can also be leveraged towards those two items so this grant should be used as the last dollar in. Existing resources should be tapped into first.

Motion by Mr. McCray to apply for the USDOL Youth Apprenticeship Grant. Second by Ms. Swanson. Motion carried.

July Council Meeting

At the earliest it will be the end of June before a gathering like a Council meeting will be allowed. Does the Executive Committee want the WDC staff to investigate having multiple meeting sites across Idaho that are connected via video conference or still host everyone in Boise?

- Having everyone come to Boise in July should still work. It is important to make sure that there is room for social distancing at the meeting.
- Idaho colleges have the ability for video conferencing if we choose that option.
- Could the July Council meeting be a hybrid meeting? Those who can come to Boise can travel and those who are not able to travel or are not ready to travel can have the option to attend remotely.
- The Committee would like to look into the option of having a Boise based meeting with a remote attendance option.

The WDC Staff will look into options for the July Council meeting and present a plan to the Executive Committee.

Motion by Mr. Young to adjourn. Second by Ms. Swanson. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 1:40 PM