



SPOKANE WORKFORCE COUNCIL

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
SPOKANE WORKFORCE COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

April 25th, 2024
Meeting held via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christina Vigil Gross
Kim Watkins
Robert Duron
Kelley Charvet
Ron Valencia
Steve MacDonald

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Mattke
Jeanette Facer
Jessica Clayton
Kevin Williams
Mustafa Baigzad

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mayor Lisa Brown
Commissioner Josh Kerns
Derek Tyree
Tina Morrison
Diana Wilhite

Chair Christina Vigil Gross called the meeting to order at 12:02 P.M.

ITEM #1 - REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES

Christina Vigil Gross - Board Chair

Review of March 28th, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

Action: Motion and second to approve Meeting Minutes from March 28th, 2024.

Approved unanimously.

ITEM #2 – Grants and Contracts

Jessica Clayton, Division Executive Program & Development

Food Assistance Program Employment & Training - Reallocated Funds

The SWC has been awarded an additional \$4,178 in supportive service funds from Washington State Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) for our FAP E&T program. This program serves refugees and immigrants with pre-employment services and financial assistance as they prepare for employment, including customers with and without work authorization. These are reallocated funds from another area that is unable to utilize all their supportive service funding and will be spent by 6/30/24. This increase will bring our total FAP E&T award to \$104,178, and we will subcontract this entire additional amount to Career Path Services.

Community Reinvestment Funds

Spokane Workforce Council has been awarded an additional \$1,401,693 from the Employment Security Department to provide incentive payments and Individual Development Accounts (IDA) through the

Department of Commerce's Community Reinvestment Fund. Our total award for these funds is now \$2,746,720 and they are intended to help low-income families move out of poverty with a focus on BIPOC individuals, families, and businesses being served. This will supplement our current Economic Security for All funding streams on the WorkSource campus. Incentive and IDA funds are to be provided through the EcSA program to Community members who have been adversely impacted by "war on drugs" policies, specifically Black, Latine and indigenous communities. The funding must be expended by June 30, 2025. We are seeking approval to bring in the funding and subcontract \$1,264,641 to Career Path Services. The incentives portion of the grant has been implemented, and this new funding will expand that program. Policy and guidelines for the IDA portion are still being developed by the State, and we anticipate that work beginning in several months.

Federal Economic Security for ALL

Spokane Workforce Council has been awarded \$142,828 from the Employment Security Department to fund our Federal Economic Security for All program. This is WIOA funding that our Governor can utilize at his discretion, and it helps to enhance and stabilize the overall EcSA program which also has funding from the State Legislature and the Department of Commerce. Although this funding is being received now, we will not make a specific contracting plan for the Consortium until June, when we are planning new program year contracts. Our teams are still being funded by their current, active Federal EcSA contracts.

BFET 100% Funds

The Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) program from DSHS utilizes what is called match funding to reimburse us for a portion of eligible funds we expend doing allowable activities. The program will periodically release what are referred to as "100% funds" for specific projects, which is funding that will pay for the full cost of allowable activities, with no match required. This year, DSHS released 100% funding for hardware and software upgrades to meet local staff needs. We submitted a proposal to purchase new laptops, software subscriptions, and printers for a number of our staff members at Next Gen Zone and the Resource Center of Spokane County/WorkSource who are using old equipment. Our \$33,233 proposal was approved, and we can now purchase the equipment for our team. The SWC will make purchases and will not sub out any of the funding.

Action: Motion and second to approve the following:

- 1) Accept an additional \$1,401,693 in Community Reinvestment Funds, and subcontract \$1,264,641 to Career Path Services.**
- 2) Accept \$142,828 in Federal Economic Security for All funds.**
- 3) Accept \$33,233 in BFET 100% funds from the Department of Social and Health Services.**

Approved unanimously.

ITEM #3 – Monthly Fiscal Report

Jeanette Facer, Division Executive Finance

Jeanette discussed the current funds under management as of April 2024. WIOA Formula comprises 23%, State Funding-Federal Funds is about 29%, State Funding-Non-Federal is about 20%, Other Funding-Federal makes up 27% and Private/ Local Funding makes up 1%. Total grant funding is about \$19 million, a new high water mark for the SWC.

ITEM #4 – ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

Mark Mattke, Chief Executive Officer

- Resource Center of Spokane County- Facilities Transition
 - Mark shared the status of the move from the 2nd floor to the 1st of the WorkSource Center of several partners, including Pioneer Human Services, CHAS Health, and our Economic Security for All and Reconnect2Work programs. Our lease expires on 5/31/24 and efforts are on track.
- Federal Agenda- WIOA Reauthorization.
 - The U.S. House of Representatives has passed its version of WIOA Reauthorization and now it is in the hands of the Senate to develop a bill and then both chambers will need

to align their versions and pass an agreed upon final bill that would head to the President's desk for signature. It is anticipated that this may occur prior to Congress's summer recess and local boards are advocating for changes to the House bill that would allow for greater local flexibility in determining the use of funds rather than prescribe percentages for expenditures on training and youth activities.

Chair Christina Vigil Gross adjourned the meeting at 12:34 P.M.