

The Washington Workforce Association, of which PacMtn is a member, advanced forward a proposal to establish a **Workforce Impact Fund** (WIF) that would bring \$50 million annually into local areas to expand the capacity of local workforce development boards (LWDBs). For the PacMtn region, it would bring approximately \$4 million, nearly doubling the federal WIOA Title I investments. The decision package, which is under development, will be part of the State Workforce Boards legislative initiatives and will focus on expanding LWDBs capacity to serve employers and will have significant performance targets. Statewide, the initiative will need to move roughly 3,500 additional job seekers in to high-wage jobs annually or 350 per year for PacMtn. The funds would support additional staff for PacMtn and the Business Solutions team to directly support employers, and administrative funding for community based organizations in the region to build capacity to serve disadvantaged populations in the region. A majority of the funds would be used to support job seekers as they transition to employment, offset Employer costs for work experiences like on-the-job training, pre-apprenticeships, and apprenticeships, and technical skills training. If the State Workforce board is success in securing the funding, the local plan to achieve the performance targets would be directly overseen by the board to ensure transparency and accountability. The State Board will review the white paper supporting the effort and may consider action at the public board meeting on August 3, 2022.

PacMtn landed a **\$1.5 million Department of Labor and Department of Corrections Pathways Home federal grant** as a result of a competitive grant process. The grant focuses on incarcerated people that are set to be released within 90-180 days from the Thurston County and Lewis County detention facilities. This effort will expand the long running partnerships with both facilities, the sheriffs and their teams. Unique to this grant, PacMtn will be working to establish a full array of pre-release services, including basic education and GED services, and will add financial coaching, skills-based training and full access to the WorkSource system. The program will run for 24 months and will serve 150 individuals. Long-term, PacMtn plans to sustain the model with WIOA Title 1b and state funding. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released in mid-August to seek proposals to provide case management services, financial coaching and basic education services. Respondents can submit proposals for one or more the services. The RFP will focus on community based organizations that serve justice-impacted individuals as a preference for the case management work. Program should begin in late fall.

PacMtn staff successfully negotiated **PY22/PY23 Title 1b Performance Targets** with the state workforce board. This bi-annual activity establishes performance targets for the regions

Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs. The targets are an accountability measure and a required component of the federal funding. The PacMtn board and its Chief Elected Official are collectively responsible for achieving the performance outcomes. Failure to achieve the targets could result in less federal funding for the region. PacMtn historically has been a high achiever as it relates to the targets. During the fall retreat, the board will learn more about the measures and their importance in the system.

The **PacMtn Board approved the PY22 preliminary budget** and will advance it to the Elected Official Consortium in July for final approval. The preliminary budget is based upon initial estimates of the federal WIOA awards – which will be finalized later in the fall. PacMtn has secured nearly \$2 million dollars in additional funding that was awarded after the approval of preliminary budget and will be included in the fall modification. As reported earlier, the federal WIOA funding is down 15.5%, or \$722K, for PY22. PacMtn staff worked hard to reduce our internal budget and to reshape the contracted work to account for the shortfall. PacMtn is also working to secure an additional \$2 million in federal and local funding – which may be awarded prior to the fall budget modification process.

PY21 closed with a bang! Despite reduced funding, PacMtn partners delivered on big targets across several funds. The Community Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) achieved its service targets and allowed PacMtn to secure a second round of funding. The MyJob program has successfully transitioned to our contract partner Equus and began to regain footing lost during the pandemic. It is on track for a full recovery. The Title 1b contractor procurement and transition was a success and we officially launched the One Workforce Initiative – aimed at transforming integrated service delivery in the region. Our Food Security project continues to perform at a high level and two new similar programs launched, one in Thurston County to support community based organizations with staffing and the second in the city of Olympia that focuses on helping unhoused individuals gain work experience. Both are funded with local ARPA funding. The last program effort to highlight is from our business service contractor and partner the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce (TCCC). With support of Business and Sector Engagement Taskforce (BaSE), a board sub-committee consisting of area employers, EDCs, and service providers, TCCC was extremely successful with expanding the cohort training model to training nearly 75 people in construction pre-apprenticeship and inline boring technologies. Lessons learned from this effort were used to inform the One Workforce initiative.

The September 22nd, 2022 consolidated Board and Elected Officials meeting will serve as a fall retreat and a good portion of the time will be focused on expanding the boards understanding of its role in the public workforce system and key deliverables as they relate to the WIOA legislation. Area board consultant Doug Mau will facilitate the activities following board business and should be an engaging event. We encourage all members of both groups to attend and welcome the public as well. More to come on the agenda in the following weeks.

Stories of Impact and Meaning

We would like to spotlight a PREP/CTAP participant.

“This young man has been connected to PREP a couple of times through Work Release and recently the Chemical Dependency Program (CDP). In his navigating through the legal system he received some push back from some of his CDP councilors for how it was approached. In spite of some setbacks he continued to press forward. While doing so, he encountered some flaws in the system.

While in staffing with his CDP councilors, I was able to get them to see it as a strength instead of a negative view. They began to see him in a different light. He has successfully completed CDP as well as PREP. Once enrolled into CTAP, he was able to get support with removing barriers to move forward in picking up the pieces and putting his life back together. This would eventually provide him the confidence he needed to thrive. With his hard work and perseverance he became a leader in the eyes of his peers. In his current living space he was appointed the house manager.

During the course of the last two months I dropped the seed of becoming a peer navigator. He saw it in himself and started the process of becoming a Peer Navigator. Also, he now provides maintenance services with The Royale Life Center’s properties. For the mic drop, he recently celebrated his 1 year of sobriety. This is surely worth a Spotlight!”