

Funding fluctuations: 2022 started with news of a significant decrease (15.5%) in the WIOA formula funding (Adult/Dislocated Worker/Youth). To balance our budget, we reduced our administrative costs by consolidating our programming to a single provider and decreased our staff accordingly. As the year progressed, PacMtn was able to secure new resources in key program areas and expanded existing program resources. The following is a highlight of these awards:

- \$1.09 million - QUEST funding to develop sector recovery strategies in hospitality, food production, and specialty manufacturing
- \$800K - Economic Security for All (EcSA) funding, both state and federal funding, to target moving job seekers in poverty to employment with self-sufficient wages
- \$1.5 million - Pathways Home funding to support incarcerated individuals beginning their transition to community with an employment focused strategy to reduce recidivism
- \$1.8 million - Community Jobs and Ag focus employment pandemic related recovery effort funded by Thurston County American Rescue Plan funding
- \$500K - Food Security expansion funded by Commerce
- \$625K - The City of Olympia funding to support wages from unhoused residents leveraging work experience to move them towards stable housing

These resources bring an additional \$7 million into the PacMtn region over the next 2 years, increasing our budget by approximately 35%, and supports key strategies identified in our local plan. In 2023, PacMtn will continue to work with system partners to identify resource needs related to demand alignment and seek funding to support.

As we head into the legislative session, the **Governor's Budget** includes an expansion of EcSA, and local workforce development board (LWDB) funding to expand business engagement strategies across the state. These budget provisions, along with ongoing EcSA funding, are the first investments in LWDB efforts from the state legislature. The expansion of EcSA targets individuals that are above the 200% of poverty line but below earnings as it relates to their self-sufficiency. LWDBs and key system partners will co-design program efforts to move participants into high-wage, high-quality jobs. The business engagement funding will be leveraged to build the capacity of LWDBs to serve employers.

PacMtn is developing a strategy to establish a legislative agenda to inform locally elected officials on legislative items that impact education, economic and workforce development, and regional projects. PacMtn has retained Doug Mah and Associates, LLC to facilitate the work. The plan will likely align with existing agendas from the Washington Workforce

Associations, Washington Economic Development Associations, and local EDCs, Chambers of Commerce, educators and others in the PacMtn region.

Work continues on the **PY24 WorkSource System Memo of Understand and Infrastructure Funding Agreement (MOU/IFA)** - branded "One Workforce - PacMtn". The draft MOU/IFA has been circulated for input with key partners and the final draft will be presented at the February 23, 2023 Board meeting. This will mark the beginning of the 3-week "Negotiation" period. During this time, which ends March 16, 2023, final input will be sought. On March 17, 2023, the MOU/IFA will be released for signature with the expectation that all parties will be positioned to execute by signature no later than March 31, 2023. A schedule of recurring meetings will be set for final input leading up to the March 16 deadline.

PacMtn celebrates the December CDL graduation at Satsop. This effort is a prime example of the new One-Workforce funding model. The program participants leveraged funding from the EcSA and Dislocated Worker programs, with the Grays Harbor College (GHC) Foundation providing the base funding, curriculum, and instruction for the training. GHC led the effort and sought partnerships with WorkSource to identify participants and additional funding to support participant outcomes. As a key partner of GHC, Satsop made their facilities available for the training program.

The weather finally allowed PacMtn to formally present the Nancie Payne Workplace Excellence Award to Oceana Spa. You can find the video on our social media sites.

Stories of Impact and Meaning

Provided by our Business Services partners at the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce-

One of our Work Experience/Internship participants who, before joining the program, was interested in transitioning from an in-home care position to administrative support in the healthcare field has successfully interviewed and secured an On-the-Job Training position with her desired employer. In order to prepare her, we held a mock panel interview and supported her in finding interview-appropriate clothing. She has expressed immense gratitude to our team for the support she has received.

From this individual and her experience, we have learned that we need to work with our talent recruiters to better understand individuals' skills and capabilities for digital literacy if they choose the administration pathway. Ideally, we would like to develop admin cohorts that have stackable certifications aligned with our eligible training providers.

Provided by our partners at Equus Workforce Solutions



CEO Report

January 2023

A youth participant entered program to take part in Grounded Program in partnership with GruB. The participant was extremely reluctant to enter program and did not think it could be of benefit. While they attended Grounded they saw others enroll and decided to enroll themselves. During their time at Grub, they were able to complete a work experience while working on their GED through Gravity. After completing their work experience with Gravity, they have successfully obtained two different jobs on their own. Youth has not been exited as we assist in finding a fit for them to be successful. Youth is very interested in a more robust training and is exited to possibly participate in one of our upcoming training cohorts.