

Initial estimates for **PY23 Federal Formula Funding** indicated that the PacMtn award would remain flat; however, the forecast came in 17% lower than the current year. The result is a \$680,000 cut across the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs with the Youth fund received a small increase. PacMtn Board staff budget and program efforts in the WorkSource system will see reductions in funding, including reductions in staff. The full PY23 budget will be presented at the June Board meeting.

PacMtn staff, Chief Business Development Officer Megan Fiess and Chief Executive Officer William Westmoreland, attended the **National Skills Coalition Conference** in Washington DC in early May. The conference focused on legislative efforts that influence the public workforce system, specifically the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS Act and Inflation Reduction Act. Additionally, the conference education opportunities related the Good Jobs Initiatives (GJI) and effective implementation practices. The conference was a great opportunity to hear from peers across the country that have launched GJI efforts. Information learned and gathered will be shared with the BaSE committee to inform our local GJI effort.

While in DC, the local team met with **Senator Murray** and staff to discuss key issues and challenges local workforce boards are experiencing the state. Topics included the stalled WIOA reauthorization, childcare, housing, and resources challenges with the current formula funding model. The Senator provided an update on the appropriation process and indicated that PacMtn's request to support transitioning military members (WorkEx program @ JBLM) had moved forward in the process. The Senator was keen to learn more about job seeker and employer experiences. An invite was extended for the Senator to visit the region after the session.

PacMtn participated in the **Washington Technical Education Coordination Board Retreat** in early May. This allowed local workforce boards and other key partner an opportunity to impact the strategic direction of the state's workforce board. The event served as an important activity related the development of the State's Workforce Plan, a requirement of the WIOA funding, which is due to Department of Labor in late winter. Once the plan is put forward, local workforce boards including PacMtn, will be required to respond with a local version of the plan the supports and drives the State's plan.

In early May, Mayor Selby was invited to share her experiences as a female leader with staff and key system partners. Part of **PacMtn's Leadership Development Series**, Mayor Selby shared her story and afforded participants an opportunity to ask questions and engage the mayor who is in her final year of her term. A link to the presentation can be found [here](#).

After a bit of a delay, PacMtn awarded three proposals submitted in response to the **QUEST Funding RFP** release in early spring. The PacMtn's QUEST program is a Department of Labor, sector focused competitive award secured by through a statewide collaboration of local workforce boards and the Employment Security Department. The local design of the program included funding projects across the region that supported the recovery of the Hospitality, Food Production and Specialty Manufacturing sectors. The awards were for Thurston Economic Development Council (\$110,000), Greater Grays Harbor-Grays Harbor College (\$100,000), and Experience Olympia & Beyond - \$100,000. The full details can be found on PacMtn's website [here](#).

Stories of Hope and Impact

Shared from our partners at Equus:

"Participant is co-enrolled into Opioid and WIOA. Participant came to us interested in serving seniors. They completed a Peer Navigation Training to gain skills relevant to coaching and working with senior citizens. They were placed in a work experience at Senior Service for South Sound and have been doing excellent. Recently the employer and participant reached out to see if they could increase her work experience hours to learn more skills. They are feeling very happy with their placement and believe that she would make an excellent senior benefits specialist."

"Participant came to the program after being out of work and moving to our area. They are a single parent and was struggling to pay their rent and make ends meet. They were drawn to an opportunity to serve others, which has been their dream for a long time. They were placed in a Transitional Job through the Opioid Grant. During their time, they completed a Peer Navigation training and worked with Peers in both the Opioid program and Youth program. They recently accepted a position as a peer navigator with a community organization and will continue to build their skills as they assist others with foundational community supports."