

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF SEATTLE-KING COUNTY
MEMORANDUM

DATE:	April 4, 2024
TO:	Full Board
FROM:	Michael Davie, Director of Programs
SUBJECT:	WIOA and VSHSL Blended Funding Approach

BACKGROUND:

On May 22, 2019, King County and City of Seattle released a joint press release “**Transforming how the region funds employment and job training to connect more people to high-demand careers**”.

King County Executive Dow Constantine and Seattle Mayor Jenny A. Durkan wanted to transform how the region funds employment and job training, uniting the efforts of local governments, businesses, labor and philanthropies to connect more people to high-demand jobs. The blended funding model aimed to better align funding to help people who face barriers to employment and help ensure that employers have the well-trained workforce they need to remain competitive in the global economy.

WIOA/ VSHSL BLENDED FUNDING GOALS:

- Expand racial equity and community-driven goals within the region’s unified workforce development system and strategy
- Identify specific marginalized communities currently underserved by the workforce system and explicitly targeting funding for culturally competent and linguistically appropriate services to reach those communities.
- Coordinate resources to close system gaps, eliminate redundancies and increase efficiencies
- Expand access to training programs and navigation services along career pathways
- Create a unified regional, coordinated and efficient system for engaging industry

APPROACH:

The Workforce Development Council awarded the funding to five agencies, four of which are working with a consortia of organizations that include a total of 14 community-based organizations to help people who are currently underserved by workforce programs.

Lead	Sub-contractors
YWCA Seattle	International Rescue Committee (IRC), Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
TRAC Associates	Africatown International, Pioneer Human Services, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA), Entre Hermanos
Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS)	Partner in Employment (PIE)
Neighborhood House	
Pacific Associates	Alliance of People with Disabilities

Over the last four years, the WDC has braided over 16 million in federal WIOA funding and more than 4 million in King County’s Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL).

Target populations include: Native Americans, African-Americans, individuals with disabilities, immigrants, individuals experiencing homelessness, LGBTQ, individuals with Limited-English proficiency (LEP), and individuals reentering the workforce after incarceration

Connecting more people to the region’s thriving economy

While the region’s economy is strong, certain populations still have disproportionately high unemployment rates, including Latinx, Native American, and African-American populations, people with disabilities, and people reentering the workforce after incarceration.

Here are a few examples:

- YWCA partnered with Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle to provide intensive and customized career development services to African-Americans, the chronically and long term unemployed, and individuals with criminal justice involvement.
- Pacific Associates provided employment, career guidance, support services, emotional support, retraining and follow-up services to people with disabilities who want to return to work.
- TRAC Associates partnered with Pioneer Human Services to provide clients coming out of incarceration access to their Roadmap to Success class, a cognitive behavior curriculum, for people who have experienced incarceration. Pioneer staff will also provide supportive services such as help accessing a driver’s license, transit passes, and interview and work clothes.

“We brought together businesses, labor, philanthropies, and educators to transform the local workforce system so we can connect more people to good-paying jobs available right here, right now,” said Executive Constantine. “Together, we will remove barriers to opportunity so that more of our neighbors can participate in our region’s historic job growth, providing local employers with the well-trained talent they need to compete in the global economy.”