

OPERATOR CONTRACT Review & Recommendation

BACKGROUND

In 2019, the WDC completed a procurement process for the WorkSource Seattle-King County Operator. Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI) was awarded the Operator contract and began serving as the system Operator in October 2019, for a contract up to three years through June, 2022, depending on performance.

PROCESS

WDC monitoring of the contract over the three year period has noted SJI's increased competence and performance as the Operator. Program and fiscal monitoring concluded on March 17, 2022, noted strong fiscal controls and program performance, particularly as the COVID pandemic required dramatic system changes five months after SJI's Operator contract began.

Under WIOA Joint Final Rule which is detailed in TEGL 15-16, the law "requires a competitive process be conducted at least once every four years" for Operator contracts.

RECOMMENDATION

WDC Leadership and staff who manage the Operator contract have discussed adding an additional year to SJI's Operator contract, particularly noting changes to the Operator contracted outcomes and measures due to the pandemic. The WDC recommends that SJI's Operator contract be allowed an additional year, through June 30, 2023 – for a total contract period of four years.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) is requested to recommend approval of an additional year to Seattle Jobs Initiative's Operator contract, as allowed under WIOA through June 30, 2023 for a total of four years.