



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: October 30, 2024

Department: Community Services

Title: Youth Employment Program Biannual Report

Management Update/Work Session Date: May 30, 2024 Audio/Visual aids

Time Required: 10 Contact: Kelli Weese Phone: 503-589-3277

Requested Action:
At the October 30, 2024 Board Session, representatives from Willamette Workforce Partnership (WWP), including Executive Director Kim Parker-Llarenas and Business Services Director Dean Craig, will be providing a report on their activities for the Youth Employment Grant program.

Issue, Description & Background:
In 2024, Marion County approved a two-year agreement with Willamette Workforce Partnership (WWP). The agreement with WWP sets the requirements and funding for WWP's administration of the Youth Employment Grant Program. Within the agreement, Willamette Workforce Partnership is obligated to provide a biannual report that includes a narrative of outreach methods, number of businesses funded, number and hours of youth within the program, impact of the program on small businesses, and details on methods working with youth in the community.

Financial Impacts:
The agreement set in 2024 allocates \$60,000 each fiscal year for Willamette Workforce Partnership to perform the Youth Employment Program, for a two year total of \$120,000 The current agreement is set to expire July 1, 2026.

Impacts to Department & External Agencies:
None

List of attachments:
Willamette Workforce Partnership Biannual Report

Presenter:
Kelli Weese, Economic Development Program Manager; Kim Parker-Llarenas, WWP Executive Director; Dean Craig, WWP Business Services Director

Department Head Signature:

Youth Employment Grant update, September 2024

Program funded by Marion County Board of Commissioners

Summary:

To date, 19 companies have applied to participate in the program. These 19 businesses indicated they would hire as many as 53 youth between the ages of 14 and 17. To date, four businesses have been approved to participate and 11 youth workers have completed the self-assessment.

WWP has reimbursed four employers, who have hired nine youth, for a total of \$2785.20 for 557.04 hours.

Overview:

With the new contract, executed June 15th, Willamette Workforce Partnership (WWP) implemented new elements to the program. These additions include assistance from WWP in accessing suitable work for interested youth and an Employability Skills self-assessment.

To access WWP assistance in finding suitable work, youth can complete a simple online form showing their interest in working. The completed forms come to Dean Craig, Business Services Director, who reviews them and reaches out to the youth via phone and/or email. When contact is made, Dean has a discussion with the youth about their work interests and attempts to locate suitable work. To date, five applications have been completed in this manner, and one youth responded to attempts to contact. After a phone discussion and email exchange with that youth, including a resume review, suitable employment for this participant was not identified.

The second new element of this program is a self-assessment of the youth's Employability Skills. WWP created this assessment based on a request from the Board of Commissioners and their desire to learn if working helped the youth improve these employability skills. The assessment was built based on the Oregon Employability Skills (oregonemployabilityskills.org) ([Oregon Employability Skills](#)). This survey will be conducted early in the youth's work and again near the end of their employment. Once both surveys are collected, WWP will analyze the data and assess how the experience of working has influenced the youth's view of employability skills.