



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Labor, Workforce, and Economic Development
Benjamin J. Weber, Chair

One City Hall Square 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ city.council@boston.gov

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

March 11, 2025

Dear Councilors,

The Committee on Labor, Workforce, and Economic Development was referred the following dockets for consideration:

Docket #0397: Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Seven Hundred Two Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Four Dollars and Twenty-Two Cents (\$702,244.22) in the form of a grant, for the RESEA Program for Field CY24 Grant, awarded by the United States Department of Labor, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund individual reemployment needs of Unemployment Insurance claimants, as well as prevent and detect improper benefit payments, and application assistance for training and education resources and programs.

Docket #0398: Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Six Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Six Dollars and Fifty-Seven Cents (\$626,466.57) in the form of a grant, for the Carry-in WIOA Dislocated Workers Program Grant, awarded by the United States Department of Labor, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund a program to help dislocated workers get back to work as quickly as possible and overcome barriers to employment.

Docket #0401: Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Two Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$254,921) in the form of a grant, for the WIOA Youth Activities Admin Grant, awarded by the United States Department of Labor, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund a program that focuses primarily on out-of-school youth, between ages 14-24, who face barriers to education, training, and employment.

Docket #0403: Message and orders authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Nine Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-One Dollars and Seventy Cents (\$109,271.70) in the form of a grant, for the WIOA Dislocated Worker Admin Grant, awarded by the United States Department of Labor, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund individualized career services and training services, for dislocated workers to rejoin the workforce as early as possible and overcome barriers to employment.

Docket #0404: Message and orders authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Ninety-Four Thousand Eighty-Nine Dollars (\$94,089) in the form of a grant, for the Wagner Peyser Admin Grant, awarded by the United States Department of Labor, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, to be administered by the Office Workforce Development. The grant will fund individual reemployment needs of unemployment insurance claimants, as well as prevent and



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detect improper benefit payments and application assistance for training and education resources and programs.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and were referred to the Committee on February 3, 2025.

Docket #0449: Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Two Million Two Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars (\$2,294,289.00) in the form of a grant for the WIOA Youth Program Grant, awarded by the United States Department of Labor, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund a comprehensive youth employment program to serve eligible youth, ages 14-24, who face barriers to education, training, and employment.

Docket #0450: Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Seven Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Two Hundred Twelve Dollars and Seventy Cents (\$1,761,212.70) in the form of a grant, for the WIOA Adult Activities, awarded by the United States Department of Labor, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund services to help job seekers access employment, education, skills training, apprenticeships and support services.

Docket #0451: Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Seventy-Six Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Seven Dollars (\$1,076,177.00) in the form of a grant, for the Wagner Peyser Program, awarded by the United States Department of Labor, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund the individual reemployment needs of Unemployment Insurance claimants, as well as prevent and detect improper benefit payments, and application assistance for training and education resources and programs.

Docket #0452: Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Nine Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Five Dollars and Thirty Cents (\$983,445.30) in the form of a grant, for the WIOA Dislocated Workers Grant, awarded by the United States Department of Labor, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund a program to help dislocated workers get back to work as quickly as possible and overcome barriers to employment.

Docket #0455: Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Carry-In Regional Planning Grant, awarded by the United States Department of Labor, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund regional planning efforts to address the creation of regional pipeline programming for high demand industries and occupations in alignment with regional planning priorities.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and were referred to the Committee on February 10, 2025.



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Summary of the Legislation

Dockets #0397, #0398, #0452, #0403, #0450, #0451, and #0404 provide funding for career center core services through WIOA Adult Services, Wagner-Peyser, and RESEA programs. Jobseekers qualify for services under one or more of these grants based on eligibility criteria such as income level, unemployment insurance status, or designation as dislocated workers. Funds are categorized as service dollars, which directly support jobseekers, or administrative dollars, which are split between the Office of Workforce Development (OWD) and the Private Industry Council (PIC) for oversight and monitoring. Additionally, **Docket #0398** includes carry-over funding from FY24.

Dockets #0449 and #0401 provides funding for WIOA Youth programming, which supports 18-24-year-old out-of-school youth facing employment barriers. These funds are distributed through a competitive grantmaking process to nonprofit organizations that offer services and programs designed to help young adults gain skills, education, and employment opportunities.

Information Received at Hearing,

The Committee held a hearing on March 11, 2025, to review a series of grants from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). These grants, awarded by the DOL and distributed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, are administered by the City of Boston's Office of Workforce Development. The hearing covered multiple dockets, including six grants supporting dislocated workers and unemployment insurance claimants, three grants funding specialized employment services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for youth and adults, and a regional planning grant aimed at developing pipeline programs for high-demand industries and occupations that align with regional workforce priorities.

The Committee was joined by Administration panelists which included Joseph Le, Chief of Staff at the Office of Worker Empowerment; Katy Gall, Director of Grants at the Office of Workforce Development; Lourenco Pires, Program Administrator for WIOA; Neil Sullivan, Executive Director of MassHire Boston Workforce Board/Boston Private Industry Council (PIC); and Angela McCabe, Director of Workforce Development at Boston Private Industry Council (PIC).

Katy Gall, Director of Grants explained that the funds being received are managed by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), which establishes the requirements for services that local workforce boards must offer. These funds are then allocated to Massachusetts based on a distribution formula. The Massachusetts Department of Career Services oversees the state's workforce boards, distributing the funds to local boards—such as MassHire Boston—and selecting vendors through a competitive grantmaking process to ensure effective and efficient program implementation.

Boston's management of workforce board funds is overseen by the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC), which serves as the city's MassHire Workforce Board. Board members are appointed by the Mayor. Starting July 1, 2024, the Office of Workforce Development (OWD) assumed the role of fiscal agent, previously held by EDIC. Workforce funds are allocated based on a formula and must be spent within two years, although progress must be demonstrated in the year the funds are awarded.



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The Administration shared the range of services provided by Boston's career centers to both job seekers and employers. Job seekers receive career counseling, labor market information, workshops, career fairs, hiring events, training opportunities, and direct job placements. Employers benefit from recruitment assistance and customized training programs tailored to their workforce needs. In FY2025, the two career centers anticipate serving 14,000 job seekers, placing 12,470 into jobs, including 950 individuals with disabilities, 8,500 unemployment insurance (UI) claimants, and 265 veterans. In FY2024, they served 15,076 job seekers, successfully placing 13,675 into jobs, including 1,009 individuals with disabilities, 9,043 UI claimants, and 269 veterans. The career centers also maintain close partnerships with community-based organizations, including "Access Points" such as Charlestown Adult Education and St. Francis House. Additionally, on-site liaisons work specifically with Adult Education and ESOL programs, while bridging programs help residents access community college, job training, and other in-depth support services.

With respect to youth funding, WIOA Youth funding supports out-of-school youth aged 18-24 who face barriers to employment by providing access to post-secondary education or training, evidence-based services to overcome employment challenges, and specialized support aligned with the 14 required program elements of WIOA, with a focus on stabilization services. The Office of Workforce Development (OWD) prioritizes data-driven improvements to enhance youth services and invests in building a coordinated system that strengthens organizational connections and links youth to broader economic opportunities. The Office of Workforce Development stated that they anticipate helping about 120 young people this year, not just by securing a job, but by setting them on a career pathway. Grant recipients have included organizations such as ABCD: Level Up, More Than Words, and Mujeres Unidas Avanzando.

The Committee discussed the unique aspects related to job training and education and the strong relationships PIC has established with teaching hospitals and effective outreach to the immigrant population. The Committee and PIC also highlighted collaborations with the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology and Bunker Hill Community College, emphasizing the types of jobs in the high-demand fields these programs are training for such as healthcare and professional services.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Labor, Workforce, and Economic Development I recommend moving the listed dockets from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At this time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that these matters **OUGHT TO PASS**.

Benjamin J. Weber, Chair
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