



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

September 10, 2025

Dear Councilors,

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

Docket #1349, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Thirty-Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen Dollars Seventy-Six Cents (\$30,513.76) in the form of a grant for the ACLS grant, awarded by the MassHire Department of Career Services to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will support efforts to work in partnership with local adult education programs to identify and develop career pathways opportunities for adult learners.

Docket #1403, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars and Thirty-Five Cents (\$136,722.35) in the form of a grant, from the Shelter Supplemental Funding Grant, awarded by the MassHire Department of Career Services to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund MassHire Career Centers with supplemental funding to support emergency assistance (EA) shelter residents with training and employment opportunities.

Docket #1405, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00) in the form of a grant for the Northeastern and W. T. Grant Foundation Grant, awarded by the William T. Grant Foundation, passed through Northeastern University, to be administered by the OYEO Administration. The grant will fund an OYEO staff member to design, implement, and maintain a new hiring platform for the City to support both the summer and year-round programs.

Docket #1406, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Friends of Youth Opportunities Boston State Street Grant, awarded by the Boston State Street Global Advisors to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund opportunities for young people ages 14-24 to work and learn along with intensive staff support.

Docket #1407, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Friends of Youth Opportunities Boston Grant, awarded by the Baupost Group to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund opportunities for young people ages 14-24 to work and learn along with intensive staff support.



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Docket #1408, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Forty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars and Three Cents (\$45,683.03) in the form of a grant, awarded by the USDA-Food & Nutrition Service, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund enhanced job search services for TAFDC and SNAP participants including career counseling, workshops, job fairs, and free job searches through Boston's MassHire Career Centers.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and were referred to the Committee on July 9, 2025 (Docket #1349) and August 6, 2025 (#1403, #1405-1408).

Summary of Legislation

Dockets #1349, #1403, and #1408 are federal grants, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services and administered by the Office of Workforce Development. They will partially fund the operations of two Career Centers in the City to provide workforce development services to residents of the City of Boston.

Dockets #1405, #1406, and #1407 are philanthropic grants being provided to the City's YOU program and to the Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity (YEO). The grants will fund the operations of the YOU program and a data management employee staffed with data collection and analysis of the Youth Summer Jobs program.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Friday, August 29, 2025 to discuss Dockets #1349, #1403, #1405-1408. Joseph Le, Chief of Staff, Worker Empowerment Cabinet, testified on behalf of the Administration.

Mr. Le provided an overview of the grants being discussed. He stated these are formula grants that have come before the Council before and therefore the following presentation may be familiar. He stated the funds in Dockets #1349, #1403, and #1408 all come from the United States Department of Labor (DOL). They are awarded to the Massachusetts Department of Career Services – which oversees Career Centers statewide, monitoring their compliance, performance, and setting statewide priorities – and are then awarded to Career Centers across the State based on a competitive procurement process. The City administers these funds through Jewish Vocational Service (JVS), located at 75 Federal Street, and Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), located at 10 Malcolm X Boulevard. Each of these centers goes through a competitive bid process; in past years, the centers were JVS and Morgan Memorial. The City has two years to spend these funds; carry-in funds were awarded to Boston in FY24 and had to be transferred to the City pursuant to the dissolution of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA).

The Boston Private Industry Council (PIC) is the Boston MassHire Workforce Board, appointed by Mayor Michelle Wu; the Office of Workforce Development (OWD) acts as the fiscal agent for the Workforce Board. Both the Centers where funds are allocated and distributed – MassHire Boston Career Center (managed by ABCD) and MassHire Downtown Boston (managed by JVS) – are both accessible via transit. The Centers provide a variety of services for both jobseekers and employers. Jobseeker



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specific services include career counseling, information on labor market demand, workshops, career fairs and hiring events, connections and funding for training, and direct placement in open positions. Employer specific services include assistance in recruiting for open positions and collaboration to provide in-depth training specific to employer needs. In FY25, the Career Centers served approximately 14,000 job seekers, which included 950 individuals with disabilities, 8,500 individuals who are Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants, and 265 veterans. In FY24, the Career Centers served approximately 15,076 job seekers, which included 1,009 individuals with disabilities, 9,043 UI claimants, and 269 veterans.

The Centers work closely with community-based organizations with access points throughout the City, including Charlestown Adult Education and St. Francis House. The Centers also have on-site liaisons specifically tasked with Adult Education and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs and provide bridging programs to community colleges and additional job training for job seekers. For example, the Centers work with First Literacy, a group which provides adult learners with scholarships to different schools; in a recent cohort of graduates, there is one individual going to Franklin Cummings Institute to continue cybersecurity training and another going to Roxbury Community College to continue their Associate's Degree. MassHire Department of Career Services (DCS) provides the City with funding from multiple sources – one of which is DOL; the funding is then bundled together to form a budget for each Career Center. The total budget for each Career Center is as follows: MassHire Boston Downtown (JVS) - \$2,321,071 and MassHire Boston (ABCD) - \$1,965,559.

Mr. Le provided an overview of the philanthropic grants – Dockets #1405, #1406, and #1407 – stating #1405 is a grant from the William T. Grant Foundation and will be utilized by the Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity to fund a staff member who manages and maintains the hiring platform and data collection that provides demographic information on what neighborhoods are being served, how many are being served, and school years of those served in the Youth Jobs program. Dockets #1406 and #1407 go to the YOU program to provide resources to allow YOU to continue working to reduce the number of youth involved in the court system. The William T. Grant is received in collaboration with Northeastern University; the bulk of the funding from the foundation is allocated to Northeastern to support an umbrella of research projects which will focus on four areas: increasing coordination and alignment across City agencies, program intermediaries, community colleges, and employers to target opportunities for underserved youth, strengthening program features that have the potential to reduce inequality, expanding opportunities for youth to engage in post-secondary education and training, and linking summer jobs participants to year-round supports. The grant received by the City is part of the funding Northeastern has received and the City meets with Northeastern bi-weekly to coordinate the research agenda and ensure the funds support the youth of Boston. The grant is part of greater efforts to increase the funding for summer jobs, for types of jobs, and for career readiness, expanding opportunities for youth in the form of new jobs and in networking opportunities, opening doors to options youth did not have access to or knowledge of before participating in summer jobs.

Mr. Le concluded his presentation by providing an overview of the impact of the YOU program – for which Dockets #1406 and #1407 will provide funding – stating the program is for 14-24 year old youth who are court-involved. In 2024-2025, 258 total youth were reached, with 98% meeting target or adjacent population criteria; 44 youth were placed in internships, earning \$18 an hour and engaging 43 local internship partners. 100% of the winter cohort created individualized transition plans and the program delivered over 1,475 hours of direct service across case management, coaching, and resource navigation.



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Examples of internship opportunities involve DJ slots on Friday nights at local radio stations and tax certification to provide tax services.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

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

Benjamin J. Weber, Chair
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