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

July 3, 2025

Dear Councilors,

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

Docket #1188, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Two Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Dollars and Thirty-Eight Cents ($1,271,380.38) 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 programs to serve eligible youth, ages 14-24, who face barriers to education, training, and employment.

Docket #1189, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Four Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars ($423,132.00) in the form of a grant, awarded by the United States Department of the Treasury, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund and support jobs seekers by providing staffing at the MassHire Career Centers to help them enroll in education and training programs funded by ARPA upskilling.

Docket #1190, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand One Hundred Fifty-One Dollars and Eighty-Five Cents ($350,151.85) in the form of a grant for the Carry-In 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 #1192, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars ($200,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Boston Climate Jobs Alliance Grant, awarded by Citizens Bank Foundation/ Community Relations to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund critical outreach and job coaching for workers in training to ensure placement into jobs that enhance climate resilience as part of the Boston Climate Jobs Alliance.

Docket #1193, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($125,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Liberty Mutual Climate Resiliency Grant, awarded by Liberty Mutual Foundation, Inc., to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund mitigative and adaptive approaches to climate change. By supporting innovative solutions, scaling proven strategies, and promoting nature-based initiatives, this funding empowers grassroots efforts to tackle environmental challenges.

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Docket #1194, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Seventy-Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars and Thirty-Five Cents ($77,122.35) in the form of a grant, the Carry-In WIOA Dislocated Workers Administration Grant, awarded by 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 administrative cost associated with providing programming to help dislocated workers get back to work as quickly as possible and overcome barriers to employment.

Docket #1195, 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, from the Friends of Youth Opportunity Boston, awarded by State Street Global Advisors to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund young people ages 14-24 an opportunity to work and learn, along with intensive staff support.

Docket #1196, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars and Thirty-Five Cents ($60,573.35) in the form of a grant, for the Carry-In WIOA Adult Administration 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 would fund administrative cost associated with Boston's MassHire Career Centers, which help resident adult job seekers access employment, education, job training, apprenticeship, and support services.

Docket #1197, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Fifty Thousand Twenty-Seven Dollars and Fifty-Five Cents ($50,027.55) in the form a grant from the Department of Transitional WPP Grant, awarded by MassHire Department of Career Services to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund employment and training assistance, career counseling and job search assistance for individuals in need who receive cash assistance, food assistance, and housing assistance, to help transition from temporary to self-sufficiency.

Docket #1198, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Thirty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars and Thirty-Six Cents ($34,349.36) 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.

Docket #1199, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Three Dollars and Seventy-Seven Cents ($8,943.77) in the form of a grant, awarded by MassHire Department of Career Services to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund employment and training assistance, career counseling and job search assistance for disabled individuals who are clients at Boston MassHire Career Centers.

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Docket #1200, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Thousand Seventy-Four Dollars and Ninety-Four Cents ($3,074.94) in the form of a grant for the SCSEP Grant, awarded by the MassHire Department of Career Services to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund employment and training assistance, career counseling and job search assistance for older adults and individuals with disabilities who are clients at Boston's MassHire Career Centers.

Docket #1201, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-One Dollars and Eight Cents ($1,861.08) in the form of a grant, for the Trade Adjustment Assistance 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 reemployment services to workers who have lost their jobs or experienced a reduction in hours and wages due to increased imports or shifts in production outside the United States.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and were referred to the Committee on June 11, 2025.

Docket #1264, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Thirty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars and Thirty-Six Cents ($34,349.36) 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 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.

Docket #1265, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars and Eighty-One Cents ($12,869.81) in the form of a grant, for the WIOA Youth Administration 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 administrative cost associated with providing a comprehensive youth employment program that serves eligible youth, ages 14-24, who face barriers to education, training, and employment.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and were referred to the Committee on June 25, 2025.

Summary of Legislation
Docket #1188 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the WIOA Youth Program Grant in the amount of $1,271,380.38. The WIOA Youth Program Grant was 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 programs to serve eligible youth, ages 14-24, who face barriers to education, training, and employment.

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Docket #1189 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend a grant in the amount of $423,132.00. This grant was awarded by the United States Department of the Treasury, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, and will be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. This grant will fund and support job seekers by providing staffing at the MassHire Career Centers to help them enroll in education and training programs funded by ARPA upskilling.

Docket #1190 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the Carry-In RESEA Program for Field CY24 Grant in the amount $350,151.85. This grant was awarded by the United States Department of Labor, passed through the MassHire Department of Career Services, and will 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 #1192 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the Boston Climate Jobs Alliance Grant in the amount of $200,000. This grant was awarded by the Citizens Bank Foundation Community Relations, and will be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund critical outreach and job coaching for workers in training to ensure placement into jobs that enhance climate resilience as part of the Boston Climate Jobs Alliance.

Docket #1193 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the Liberty Mutual Climate Resiliency Grant in the amount of $125,000. This grant was awarded by Liberty Mutual Foundation, Inc., and will be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund mitigative and adaptive approaches to climate change. By supporting innovative solutions, scaling proven strategies, and promoting nature-based initiatives, this funding empowers grassroots efforts to tackle environmental challenges.

Docket #1194 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the Carry-In WIOA Dislocated Workers Administration Grant in the amount of $77,122.35. This grant was 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 administrative costs associated with providing programming to help dislocated workers get back to work as quickly as possible and overcome barriers to employment.

Docket #1195 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expand the Friends of Youth Opportunity Boston grant in the amount of $70,000. This grant was awarded by the State Street Global Advisors to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund young people ages 14-24 an opportunity to work and learn, along with intensive staff support.

Docket #1196 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the Carry-In WIOA Adult Administration Grant in the amount of $60,573.35. This grant was 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 would fund administrative costs associated with Boston's MassHire Career Centers, which help resident adult job seekers access employment, education, job training, apprenticeship, and support services.

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Docket #1197 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the Transitional WPP Grant amount of $50,027.55. This grant was awarded by MassHire Department of Career Services to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund employment and training assistance, career counseling and job search assistance for individuals in need who receive cash assistance, food assistance, and housing assistance, to help transition from temporary to self-sufficiency.

Docket #1198 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the Carry-In Regional Planning Grant in the amount of $34,349.36. This grant was 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.

Docket #1199 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend a grant in the amount of $8,943.77. This grant was awarded by MassHire Department of Career Services to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund employment and training assistance, career counseling and job search assistance for disabled individuals who are clients at Boston MassHire Career Centers.

Docket #1200 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the SCSEP Grant in the amount of $3,074.94. This grant was awarded by the MassHire Department of Career Services to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund employment and training assistance, career counseling and job search assistance for older adults and individuals with disabilities who are clients at Boston's MassHire Career Centers.

Docket #1201 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the Trade Adjustment Assistance Grant in the amount of $1,861.08. This grant was 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 reemployment services to workers who have lost their jobs or experienced a reduction in hours and wages due to increased imports or shifts in production outside the United States.

Docket #1264, authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the Carry-In Regional Planning Grant in the amount of $34,349.36. This grant was 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.

Docket #1265 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the the WIOA Youth Administration grant in the amount of $12,869.81. This grant was 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 administrative costs associated with providing a comprehensive youth employment program that serves eligible youth, ages 14-24, who face barriers to education, training, and employment.

Information Received at Hearing

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The Committee held a hearing on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 to discuss various labor-related grants. The Committee was joined by representatives of the Worker Empower Cabinet including Joseph Le, Chief of Staff, Jodi Sugerman-Brozan, Deputy Chief, Katy Gall, Director of Grants; Devon Wedge, Senior Director of Administration and Finance; and Doreen Treacy, Director of Workforce Training and Programs.

Director Gall discussed Dockets #1188-1190, #1194, #1196-1201, and #1264-1265. She stated that these grants would provide funding for the City's One Stop Career Centers and explained that these career centers are mandated by federal workforce law to provide a "single front door" for job seekers and employers to access training and specialized services. These services are funded by a range of grants that are distributed on a formula basis and bundled together to form a single contract with each Career Center.This funding is overseen by the United States Department of Labor, awarded to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and then distributed to local workforce boards. These workforce boards award a Career Center charter based on a competitive procurement process. She explained that the City has two years to spend most of these workforce funds.

Director Gall further discussed Boston's management of these Career Center Funds stating that the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC) is Boston's MassHire Workforce Board, appointed by Mayor Michelle Wu. The Office of Workforce Development serves as the fiscal agent for the Workforce Board. MassHire Boston Carer Center in Roxbury and MassHire Downtown Boston have each been awarded the Career Center charter. These Career Centers offer a variety of services including career counseling, career fairs and hiring events, job training, and recruiting assistance for employers among others. By the end of this fiscal year, the two career centers anticipate serving 14,000 total job seekers. Director Gall stated that the Massachusetts Department of Career Services provides the City of Boston with funding from multiple sources which are braided together to form the budget for each career center. The total budget for MassHire Downtown Boston is $2,321,071, and $1,965,559 for MassHire Roxbury.

Director Gall provided a brief overview of the individual dockets explaining that Docket #1188 will fund a comprehensive youth employment programs to serve eligible youth, ages 14-24, who face barriers to education, training, and employment, Docket #1189 will fund and support job seekers by providing staffing at the MassHire Career Centers to help them enroll in education and training programs funded by ARPA upskilling, Docket #1190 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 #1194 will fund administrative costs associated with providing programming to help dislocated workers get back to work as quickly as possible and overcome barriers to employment, Docket #1196 will fund administrative costs associated with Boston's MassHire Career Centers, which help resident adult job seekers access employment, education, job training, apprenticeship, and support services, Docket #1197 will fund employment and training assistance, career counseling and job search assistance for individuals in need who receive cash assistance, food assistance, and housing assistance, to help transition from temporary to self-sufficiency, Docket #1198 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, Docket #1199 will fund employment and training assistance, career counseling and job search assistance for disabled individuals who are clients at Boston MassHire Career Centers, Docket #1200 will fund employment and training assistance, career counseling and job search assistance for older adults and individuals with disabilities

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who are clients at Boston's MassHire Career Centers, Docket #1201 will fund reemployment services to workers who have lost their jobs or experienced a reduction in hours and wages due to increased imports or shifts in production outside the United States, Docket #1264 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, and Docket #1265 will fund administrative costs associated with providing a comprehensive youth employment program that serves eligible youth, ages 14-24, who face barriers to education, training, and employment.

Chief Le discussed Docket #1193 and stated that this grant was awarded to the City of Boston by the Liberty Mutual Foundation to fund the City's PowerCorp program comprised of 18-30 year olds to develop and execute mitigative and adaptive approaches to tackle the impacts of climate change, and provide gateways to green jobs in the environmental sector. Specifically, this funding would go towards training and materials, stipends, and equipment and tools. He also discussed the success and positive outcomes from this program.

Chief Le discussed Docket #1195 and stated that this grant was awarded by State Street Global Advisors to fund work and learn programs for at-risk 14-24 year olds through the City's YOU Program. Specifically, these funds will support programmatic needs and participation stipends. Since 2024, 44 youth have been placed in internships through the YOU Program, and delivered over 1,475 hours of direct services across case management, coaching, and resource navigation.

Deputy Chief Sugerman-Brozan discussed Docket #1192 stating that this grant was awarded by the Citizens Bank foundation to assist in ensuring that the Office of Workforce Development is reaching, recruiting, and supporting its target audience from historically underrepresented communities. Of the total amount, $100,000 will be used to partner with nonprofit organizations in Boston to provide mentorships to inspire teen artists and designers through paid creative and professional experiences to develop a marketing plan and design outreach materials for the Boston Climate Jobs Alliance, $50,000 to allow the Department to partner with a nonprofit organization to provide job development, coaching, and job retention to ensure trainees are successful before and after job placement, and $50,000 to provide childcare vouchers for ten trainees.

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 this matter **OUGHT TO PASS.**

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