



FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Workforce Development Board

June 4, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m.
Workforce Connection
3170 West Shaw Avenue
Room 105
Fresno, CA 93711

Mission Statement: The Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board exists to oversee the optimal administration of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds in the Fresno region. In serving both the business community and the individual job seeker with the provision of human capital development services, we hope to foster the economic vitality of the Fresno Region.

REMINDER: PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES OR PUT ON VIBRATE

1. ROLL CALL
2. COMMENTS BY FRWDB CHAIR AND/OR EXECUTIVE STAFF
3. AGENDA CHANGES: REMOVAL OF ITEMS OR EMERGENCY ADDITIONS
4. ABSTENTIONS/RECUSALS/DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Item #	Description	Presenter	Enclosure	Action	Page #
6.	Committee Reports Adult Council – Chuck Riojas Executive Committee – Edgar Blunt Skills Development Council – Lydia Zabrycki Youth Council – Vasili Sotiropulos		No	Information	--
7.	Approval of the March 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes	Konczal	Yes	Approve	6
8.	April 2025 Financial Report	Konczal	Yes	Accept	13
9.	Board Member Spotlight	Konczal	No	Information	--

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Disabled individuals and individuals who are limited English proficient who need special assistance to attend or participate in this meeting may request assistance by contacting the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board, at 2125 Kern Street, Suite 208, Fresno, California, or by calling (559) 490-7100. Every effort will be made to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities or who are limited English proficient by making meeting materials available in alternative formats. Requests for assistance should be made at least three (3) working days in advance of the meetg.

Item #	Description	Presenter	Enclosure	Action	Page #
10.	In the Community – Marketing Update	M. Espinosa	No	Information	--
11.	Government Update	Sutton	No	Information	--

CONSENT ITEMS

12. Approve Consent Items (A1 – C6). *Items pulled from consent will be handled with the other regular items at the end of the agenda, including any information items that are pulled.* Approve

CONSENT ITEMS SUBMITTED BY ADULT COUNCIL

A1	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Adult and Dislocated Worker Provider Allocations for the First Half of Program Year 2025-2026	Konczal	Yes	Approve	22
A2	One-Stop Operator Contract Award	Stogbauer	Yes	Approve	24
A3	Human Resource Development and Organizational Development Support Services Award Recommendation	Stogbauer	Yes	Approve	25
A4	Human Resources Hotline and Business Workshop Award Recommendation	Stogbauer	Yes	Approve	26
A5	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act 2025-2028 Local and Regional Plans	Stogbauer	Yes	Approve	27
A6	Local Performance Results Reports	V. Xiong	Yes	Accept	145
A7	Providers of Services' Monitoring Report	Beierschmitt	Yes	Accept	152
A8	Job Seeker Customer Satisfaction Reports	Stogbauer	Yes	Accept	155

CONSENT ITEMS SUBMITTED BY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

B1	Ratification of New Skills Development Council Member	Konczal	Yes	Ratify	159
B2	Eligible Training Provider List Monitoring Report	Beierschmitt	Yes	Accept	160

CONSENT ITEMS SUBMITTED BY YOUTH COUNCIL

C1	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Provider Allocations for the First Half of Program Year 2025-2026	Konczal	Yes	Approve	163
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C2	Emergency Medical Services Contract Awards	Matthews	Yes	Approve	165
C3	Workforce Accelerator Fund Contract Awards	Matthews	Yes	Approve	166
C4	Youth Satisfaction Report	Stogbauer	Yes	Accept	167
C5	Youth Providers of Services' Monitoring Report	Beierschmitt	Yes	Accept	169
C6	Local Performance Results Report	V. Xiong	Yes	Accept	172

NON-CONSENT ITEMS

13.	Recognition of Board Anniversaries	Blunt	No	Information	--
14.	Information Sharing	WDB Members	No	Discussion	--
15.	Agenda Items for September 10, 2025, Meeting	Konczal	No	Discussion	--
16.	Meeting Feedback	Konczal	No	Discussion	--

**FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
2025 ATTENDANCE RECORD**

DIRECTORS	3/5/2025	6/4/2025	9/10/2025	12/3/2025
Shayn Anderson State of CA Department of Rehabilitation	A			
Stephen Avila Grundfos Pumps	P			
Lenora Lacy Barnes State Center Federation of Teachers	P			
Edgar Blunt IMAGO	P			
Alysia Bonner SEIU 521	A			
Rodney Branch Fresno Adult School	P			
Douglas Dart Dart Realty	A			
Christina Garza Employment Dev. Dept.	--			
Carole Goldsmith State Center Community College District	A			
Luis Chavez Fresno County Board of Supervisors	P			
Jeffrey Hensley Hensley Associates	P			
Kurt Madden Career Nexus	P			
Tyler Maxwell City of Fresno	P			
Wyatt Meadows Operating Engineers Local 3	A			
Terry Metters, Jr. Pacific Gas & Electric Company	A			
Scott Miller Gazebo Gardens, Inc.	P			
Dennis Montalbano German Auto Repair	P			
Alisha Morgan Kaiser Permanente	P			
Joe Olivares TransAmerica	P			
Chuck Riojas Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Kings Building Trades	P			
Vasili Sotiropulos Hyatt Real Estate	P			

**FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
2025 ATTENDANCE RECORD**

DIRECTORS	3/5/2025	6/4/2025	9/10/2025	12/3/2025
Sandra Vicente Union Bank	P			
Lydia Zabrycki CAPTRUST	P			
Chris Zeitz Fresno County Economic Development Corporation	P			
Ken Price (Counsel) Baker, Manock & Jensen	P			

P = Present

A = Absent

-- = Not a Member at Time of Meeting

xx = Meeting Canceled

FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

AGENDA ITEM:	7
MEETING DATE:	June 4, 2025
ACTION:	APPROVE

2125 Kern Street, Suite 208 • Fresno, CA 93721 • (559) 490-7100 • Fax (559) 490-7199 • www.frwdb.net

TO: Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board
FROM: Blake Konczal, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Approval of the March 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes of the March 5, 2025, meeting of the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board.

ATTACHMENT:

March 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes

FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Workforce Development Board
March 5, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m.

SUMMARY MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Stephen Avila, Lacy Barnes, Edgar Blunt, Rodney Branch, Luis Chavez, Jeff Hensley, Kurt Madden, Tyler Maxwell, Scott Miller (arrived at 4:18 p.m.), Dennis Montalbano, Alisha Morgan, Joe Olivares, Chuck Riojas, Vasili Sotiropulos, Sandra Vicente (arrived at 4:04 p.m.), Lydia Zabrycki, Chris Zeitz (arrived at 4:04 p.m.), and Legal Counsel Ken Price.

ABSENT – Shayn Anderson, Alysia Bonner, Douglas Dart, Carole Goldsmith, Wyatt Meadows, and Terry Metters, Jr.

COMMENTS BY FRWDB CHAIR
AND/OR EXECUTIVE STAFF: None

AGENDA CHANGES
REMOVAL OF ITEMS OR
EMERGENCY ADDITIONS: None

ABSTENTIONS/ DISCLOSURES OF
POTENTIAL CONFLICTS
OF INTEREST/RECUSALS: Blunt – Items B1 and B2; Madden – Item B1; and Olivares – Item B1.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Item Description/Action Taken

6. Committee Reports

Adult Council: Director Riojas reported that the Adult Council (Council) met on January 23rd, at which time they saw a video highlighting the Third Quarter Adult Achievement Award winner.

Directors Vicente and Zeitz arrived (4:04 p.m.)

The Council reviewed and recommended Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) acceptance of the Local Performance Results Reports, Providers of Services Monitoring Report, and Job Seeker Customer Satisfaction Report. They also were presented two (2) information items: the America's Jobs Centers of California Usage Report and the Adult and Dislocated Worker Demographics Reports. He noted that there were no issues or concerns with any of the reports.

Skills Development Council: Director Zabrycki shared that the Skills Development Council (SDC) met on February 5th, at which time they recommended for FRWDB approval, the allocation of a \$2 million Growth Opportunities Grant award from the U. S. Department of Labor, to support the creation of the FRWDB's Course Correct program. They also recommended the approval of the allocation of a \$500,000 award from the James Irvine Foundation for the Workforce Support 360° project, which is a

24-month project intended to enhance the capacity of Workforce staff and strengthen collaboration with Community Based Organizations to facilitate better employment outcomes for low-wage workers and connect them with quality job opportunities. Director Chavez asked what was considered "low wage" in Fresno; was it making minimum wage? He also asked what the amount would be for a family of four (4). Mr. Konczal indicated that it varied by region and could vary by grant. Mr. Konczal indicated that he would provide Director Chavez with more information on this.

The SDC reviewed a PowerPoint overview of the Aspen Leadership Academy. They were also presented with reports covering several topics, including: Individual Training Accounts, special grants, staff training, and discretionary grants.

Blake Konczal, Executive Director, FRWDB, noted that the special grants report covered both the construction and forestry programs that have been running for a number of years in the valley. FRWDB has been fiscal and administrative agent for these regional programs, and this would help the FRWDB be competitive with other regional grant funding opportunities in the future.

Ms. Zabrycki thanked Director Dart for chairing the February 5th SDC meeting in her absence.

Executive Committee: Chair Blunt reported that the Executive Committee (Committee) met on January 15th, when they reviewed and accepted the November 2024 Financial Report and Agency Budget and Expenditures Reports. He reported that the Committee approved a number of items: The City of Fresno One Fresno Youth Job Corps Grant Award allocations; the High Road Training Partnership – California Legacy Well Service grant award allocations; the contract modification for Fresno County Private Security; term limits for non-FRWDB Committee and Council members; and the updated FRWDB Procurement Policy.

Director Miller arrived (4:18 p.m.)

The Committee received an information item from Phyllis Stogbauer, Senior Deputy Director, FRWDB, on the FRWDB's Continuous Improvement Plan, which must be reviewed and updated every three (3) years. Chair Blunt noted that the FRWDB hired a consultant who worked with FRWDB and provider staff to identify areas for improvement. FRWDB staff will provide updates to the FRWDB as the improvements are implemented. The Committee also received Mr. Konczal's report on his activities for the previous quarter.

This was an information item.

7. Approval of the December 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes

**MADDEN/OLIVARES – APPROVED THE DECEMBER 4, 2024, MEETING MINUTES.
(UNANIMOUS)**

8. January 2025 Financial Report

Mr. Konczal presented the January 2025 Financial Report for the FRWDB's acceptance. He reviewed the grants that were highlighted in the agenda item and stated that FRWDB staff had no concerns. He reminded Directors that the FRWDB receives a formula allocation from state that comes from the U.S. Department of Labor and that the FRWDB's current formula allocation was just over \$20 million. He shared that the FRWDB had applied for competitive grants and those budgets were at \$37 million and were included in the Financial Report. There were no questions from the Directors.

**OLIVARES/SOTIROPULOS – ACCEPTED THE JANUARY 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT.
(UNANIMOUS)**

9. **Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board First Vice Chair Contract Signatory Authorization**

Mr. Konczal presented a contract signatory authorization for the FRWDB First Vice Chair to sign FRWDB contracts when the Chair is unable to sign. Mr. Konczal shared that the FRWDB's Bylaws allow for the FRWDB to authorize the Chair to sign contracts on the Board's behalf; however, there is no authorization in place for contracts to be signed should the Chair be incapacitated, out of the country, or should there be a conflict of interest. This authorization would allow the FRWDB First Vice Chair to sign contracts when the Chair is unable to sign. Mr. Konczal noted that whether a contract is signed by the Chair or the Vice Chair, all contracts will have been reviewed and approved per existing FRWDB policies and procedures prior to execution; and that this authorization complies with the FRWDB's Bylaws.

Chair Emeritus Montalbano stated that many times, contracts had time constraints for when they need to be signed. He indicated that this was a great idea to authorize First Vice Chair to sign.

RIOJAS/ZABRYCKI – APPROVED THE FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FIRST VICE CHAIR CONTRACT SIGNATORY AUTHORIZATION. (UNANIMOUS)

10. **Authorization of Executive Committee to Approve Contract Amendment**

Mr. Konczal presented an item for the FRWDB to authorize the FRWDB Executive Committee to approve an amendment to the contract between the FRWDB and State Center Community College District (SCCCD) for the High Roads Construction Careers (HRCC) ValleyBuild program.

Mr. Konczal explained that SCCC was awarded an HRCC grant for which only colleges could compete. SCCC would like to amend the existing contract with the FRWDB in the amount of \$781,490 to fund ValleyBuild pre-apprenticeship training cohorts. The SCCC Board of Trustees would be voting on this contract amendment at their meeting of April 1, 2025, and the first HRCC-funded ValleyBuild cohort was scheduled to start April 7, 2025. There would be only the six (6) days between the SCCC meeting and the start of the cohort for the FRWDB to approve the amended contract.

This item would authorize the FRWDB Executive Committee to approve the contract amendment at a special meeting held between April 1 and April 7, 2025.

OLIVARES/MAXWELL – AUTHORIZED THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE CONTRACT AMENDMENT. (UNANIMOUS)

11. **Board Member Spotlight**

There was no Board member spotlight; however, Mr. Konczal shared the latest information about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reauthorization and funding for the upcoming program year. He was asked to serve on the Board of Trustees for the U.S. Conference of Mayors Workforce Council and on a recent Zoom meeting, was able to hear from their lobbyists and members in D.C. about what could be coming for the world of workforce development.

He shared that both the House of Representatives and the United States Senate had passed their versions of a budget, but because they were differing versions, no unified budget was passed. The formula funding that workforce boards receive was currently on a stopgap spending measure that would go through the middle of March, and there were two (2) proposals being offered to keep programs funded: A Stopgap Spending Bill, which would continue funding at current levels through September of 2025; and a Continuing Resolution, introduced by Senator Collins of Maine, that would provide flat funding of all federal programs, meaning the amount programs have now, for one (1) year.

Mr. Konczal shared that the WIOA reauthorization bill, A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA), had bi-partisan support, but was narrowly defeated in November 2024. The ASWA initially had a mandatory 70% training set aside on all formula funding, but was negotiated down to 50% in November, when the bill was defeated. A revised version of the ASWA was currently being looked at in the House, but there was no information yet on a training set aside percentage, if any. The original ASWA also proposed changing local workforce area designations, raising the population threshold from 500,000 to 5 million. That would mean California would go from the current 43 Workforce Boards, down to as low as seven (7). Director Montalbano asked Mr. Konczal if he thought the number of California Workforce Boards would be reduced. Mr. Konczal shared that unless there was something that compelled it at the federal level, he did not think that would happen in California.

Mr. Konczal shared that Career Technical Education (CTE) funding, previously routed through the Department of Education (DOE), could shift to the Department of Labor (DOL), with the DOE being dismembered. There were questions whether the DOL would use the existing workforce structure to distribute those funds. There was also a question of where the funding for the formerly DOE-funded AmeriCorps Vista program would go.

Another item Mr. Konczal shared with the FRWDB was how the DOL tracked workforce development activities. He indicated that while the federal government spends hundreds of millions of dollars on workforce programs, the DOL currently tracked only WIOA enrollees. In 2023, nationally, DOL's data showed a total of 279,000 Adult enrollees, 186,000 Dislocated Worker enrollees, and 132,000 Youth enrollees. DOL's data did not include the number of individuals visiting the workforce centers nor repeat visits. The US Conference of Mayors plans to propose that the new ASWA legislation include broader tracking by the DOL, which could reflect 5 to 6 million visits nationwide, as opposed to the current data reported, as noted above.

Mr. Konczal stated that FRWDB senior staff have been preparing for changes coming with the reauthorization and potential budget cuts by developing a number of plans to allow FRWDB to quickly respond to whatever might happen. Senior staff's goal is to be proactive, ensuring they are ready with recommendations for the FRWDB once the reauthorization and budget is passed.

This was an information item.

12. In the Community – Marketing Update

Diane Jensen, Marketing Coordinator, FRWDB, presented the marketing update in Martha Espinosa's absence, providing an overview of the FRWDB's marketing activities through billboards, advertising, and outreach events.

Ms. Jensen shared that there were currently three (3) billboard campaigns in the valley. ValleyBuild billboards were on Highway 99 in three (3) locations: Fresno, Bakersfield and Livingston. Rapid Response billboards were located in Mendota and Parlier to reach laid off workers from Prima Wawona and Olam closures. There was also a billboard in Kerman with information about general Workforce services.

FRWDB continued to market its programs and services through various media outlets, including Fox 26, iHeart Radio, B95, and LaBuena, and The Business Journal.

Ms. Jensen reported on the different events the FRWDB held during the last quarter. On February 7th, all five (5) Workforce Connection locations participated in National Pizza Day, where attendees learned about Workforce services and got a slice of pizza. Also in February, the FRWDB held its first Employer Meet and Greet. This was an innovative way for FRWDB to fill some of its open positions for its business services, special projects and program units. Over 20 job seekers attended and four (4) new FRWDB staff members were hired.

FRWDB held a hiring event for the new Ross store coming to Fresno. Over 200 job seekers attended and Ross hired over 50 people from this event. While job seekers were waiting for interviews, Workforce staff conducted orientations so that if individuals did not get hired that day, they learned about the services Workforce has to offer.

On February 27th FRWDB conducted a job fair in Firebaugh where 358 job seekers attended. There were 18 employers, nine (9) training providers, and staff from the Department of Rehabilitation and Assemblymember Soria's office to offer resources to attendees.

Upcoming events included the Annual Achievement Awards Breakfast on March 12th; the Emergency Medical Services Corps kick-off celebration on April 3rd; Govaganza Government and Education Career Fair on April 9th; the California Workforce Association's WorkCon conference April 29th – May 1st, where FRWDB staff and Directors have three (3) presentations; Tough as a Mother Construction Expo in May to promote ValleyBuild; The Greater Sierra Forestry Corps Graduation on May 27th; the ValleyBuild Graduation on May 28th; and the FRWDB All Staff Conference on May 29th.

This was an information item.

13. **Government Update**

Feleena Sutton, Government Affairs Manager, FRWDB, shared that the Department of Government Efficiency has asked the DOL to cut spending by \$330 billion over a ten (10)-year period, which was about \$330 million a year. These cuts would not come solely from workforce, but would likely impact programs such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), WIC (Women, Infants and Children), and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). Ms. Sutton indicated that she would continue to closely track developments on this topic, daily.

Ms. Sutton reported that Lori Chavez-DeRemer was confirmed as Labor Secretary and the hearing for her possible Deputy Secretary, Keith Sonderling, would be held in early March. Mr. Sonderling was a former Commissioner of US Equal Opportunity Commission.

State legislation Ms. Sutton was following included:

SB275: A bill that would prohibit an approved training provider from being removed from the Eligible Training Provider List while verification documents were in review by the Employment Development Department. Ms. Sutton and Jose Espinoza, Training Manager, FRWDB, were on the Committee that worked on the content for this bill.

SB581: This bill would make seasonal firefighters full-time employees, so that they are working year round.

SB845: This is a large piece of legislation that would strengthen CTE standards, expand work-based learning opportunities, enhance youth apprenticeship programs, and ensure cost reimbursement for schools.

Ms. Sutton reported that she would be meeting with new Assemblymember Stan Ellis to share about the work the FRWDB does. She also reported that there would be a special election for Fresno City Council on March 18th.

Ms. Sutton concluded her update by distributing a publication she created showing the FRWDB's return on investment in both the Forestry and ValleyBuild programs, which are both regional programs. She indicated that she was also working on another publication showing how the FRWDB is not only helping individuals, but businesses, as well.

This was an information item.

14. Consent Items (A1 – B2)

MONTALBANO/BRANCH – APPROVED THE CONSENT ITEMS A1 – B2. (UNANIMOUS)

15. Recognition of Board Anniversaries

Chair Blunt recognized Directors for their years of service on the FRWDB with a presentation of certificates. He recognized Directors whose anniversaries occurred in the months of January through March: Chris Zeitz – two (2) years; Stephen Avila – four (4) years; Alysia Bonner – five (5) years; Vasili Sotiropoulos – seven (7) years; and Chuck Riojas – 18 years.

This was an information item.

16. Information Sharing

Legal Counsel Ken Price shared that he would be leaving his law firm and would be becoming the Chief Legal Officer of Valley Children's Hospital in May. He shared that it had been an honor to work with Mr. Konczal and the FRWDB for over 20 years. He mentioned some of the work he completed with Mr. Konczal, including negotiating the Joint Powers Agreement between the City and the County and navigating the Targeted Hiring Agreement for the California High Speed Rail, which he said were career changing. Mr. Price shared that his colleague, Craig Armstrong, would be taking his place with the FRWDB. Mr. Konczal thanked Mr. Price and the Board gave Mr. Price a round of applause.

This was an information item.

17. Agenda Items for June 4, 2025, Meeting

No items were suggested for the June 4, 2025, FRWDB meeting agenda.

18. Meeting Feedback

There was no meeting feedback

This was an information item.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

AGENDA ITEM:	8
MEETING DATE:	June 4, 2025
ACTION:	ACCEPT

2125 Kern Street, Suite 208 • Fresno, CA 93721 • (559) 490-7100 • Fax (559) 490-7199 • www.frwdb.net

TO: Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board
FROM: Blake Konczal, Executive Director
SUBJECT: April 2025 Financial Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) April 2025 Financial Report.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The attached summary financial report and charts display year-to-date financial information through April 30, 2025.

- Regional Equity and Recovery Partnership (RERP): This grant received a three (3) month no cost extension from September 30, 2025, to December 31, 2025; it is 16.16% expended at \$169,765, with an unspent amount of \$880,964. FRWDB staff successfully completed budget modification to move contracted training work experience funds to a training pool to expand training opportunities.
- Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeship (ERiCA): This grant received a six (6) month no cost extension from June 30, 2025, to December 31, 2025; it is 54.43% expended at \$979,692 with an unspent amount of \$820,308.
- High Road Construction Careers (HRCC) Round 2 – Foundations: This grant received a three (3) month no cost extension from June 30, 2025, to September 30, 2025; it is 19.38% expended at \$35,844, with an unspent amount of \$149,156.
- Additional Assistance (AA) Project: This grant ended April 30, 2025. FRWDB staff is processing all final expenditures by May 30, 2025. FRWDB staff anticipate being 70% expended at \$910,000.
- California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) - HRCC: This grant ends September 30, 2025; it is 3.94% expended at \$38,873, with an unspent amount of \$946,765. This is a short-term grant with Fresno City College to support the ValleyBuild Summer cohorts. Cohorts will start May 27, 2025, and conclude August 31, 2025.
- One Fresno Youth Job Corps Wraparound Services – City of Fresno: This grant ends December 31, 2025; it is 12.97% expended at \$68,893, with an unspent amount of \$531,107. Referrals have been lower than expected for the first four (4) months of the grant. Staff has not concerns at this time.
- Aspen Institute: The initial Planning phase ended March 31, 2025. This grant entered into the Implementation phase, on April 1, 2025, and will end March 31, 2026. It is currently 2.16% expended at \$1,081, with an unspent amount of \$48,919.

- Public Workforce Capacity Fund (PWCF) – James Irvine Foundation: This grant ends October 1, 2025, and it is 11.09% expended at \$55,439, with an unspent amount of \$444,561. Although there was a slow start-up for this grant, FRWDB successfully identified 20 community-based organizations to complete a video resource library with IMAGO. Filming dates have been set for the months of June and July 2025.
- Staff have no concerns with other grant expenditures.

ATTACHMENT:

April 2025 Financial Report

FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Summary Financial Report
April 2025

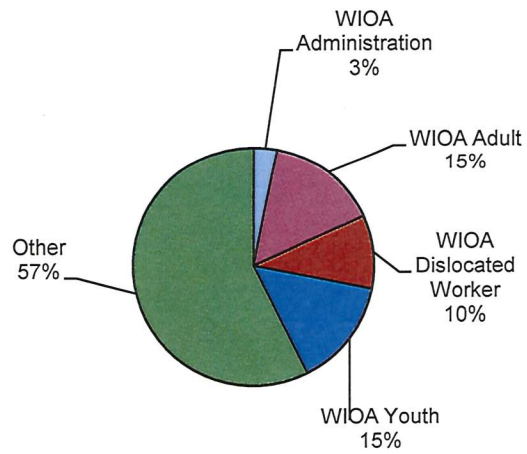
GRANT	TERM	Total Grant Amount	Prior Year(s) Expended	Current Plan Year to Date Expenditures	Percent Expended	Unspent Committed Funds
WIOA ADMINISTRATION	07/01/2024 - 06/30/2025	1,713,073		1,305,645	76.22%	407,428
* WIOA ADULT	07/01/2024 - 06/30/2025	8,233,500		4,894,501	59.45%	3,338,999
* WIOA DISLOCATED WORKER	07/01/2024 - 06/30/2025	5,326,313		3,224,867	60.55%	2,101,446
* WIOA YOUTH	07/01/2024 - 06/30/2025	7,879,042		4,989,817	63.33%	2,889,225
*WIOA RAPID RESPONSE & Layoff Aversion	07/01/2024 - 06/30/2025	556,082		210,383	37.83%	345,699
QUEST - Quality Jobs-Equity-Strategy-Training-(NDWG)	10/01/2022 - 09/30/2025	750,000	511,415	177,058	91.80%	61,527
Fatherhood - HHS	09/30/2024 - 09/29/2025	749,999	-	481,520	64.20%	268,479
Valley Build Earmark - Assembly Bill No. 178	04/01/2023 - 12/31/2025	3,000,000	710,961	785,411	49.88%	1,503,628
CAL FIRE - Round 2	03/24/2023 - 03/31/2026	1,973,615	364,003	688,918	53.35%	920,694
HRCC: Resilient Workforce (RWF)	06/01/2023 - 03/31/2026	8,825,127	1,540,165	1,992,679	40.03%	5,292,283
Regional Equity and Recovery Partnership (RERP)	12/01/2022 - 12/31/2025	1,050,729	2,364	167,401	16.16%	880,964
Prison to Employment (P2E) 2.0	07/11/2023 - 12/31/2025	719,723	58,810	300,785	49.96%	360,128
ERiCA-Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeships	05/01/2023 - 12/31/2025	1,800,000	72,683	907,009	54.43%	820,308
High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP - RWF)	05/15/2023 - 03/31/2026	2,500,000	185,700	1,071,348	50.28%	1,242,952
Student Training and Employment Program (STEP)	01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025	619,952		298,522	48.15%	321,430
HRCC - Rnd 2 - Foundations	12/13/2023 - 09/30/2025	185,000	6,296	29,548	19.38%	149,156
Additional Assistance (AA) Project	06/01/2023 - 04/30/2025	1,300,000	271,420	597,684	66.85%	430,896
Good Jobs Challenge - American Rescue Plan	06/01/2023 - 09/30/2027	1,807,383	201,493	398,506	33.20%	1,207,384
ELL Integrated Education and Training	10/01/2023 - 12/31/2026	3,330,000	8,221	723,660	21.98%	2,598,119
EMS Corps Planning Grant - Public Works Alliance (PWA)	05/29/2024 - 01/31/2027	1,270,000	-	26,459	2.08%	1,243,541
HRCC - Ca Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO)	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	985,638	-	38,873	3.94%	946,765
One Fresno Youth Job Corps WrapAround Services - City of Fresno	01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025	600,000		44,437	7.41%	555,563
Aspen Institute	04/01/2025 - 03/31/2026	50,000		1,081	2.16%	48,919
High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP) - CA Legacy Well Services	07/19/2023 - 03/16/2026	40,000		10,000	25.00%	30,000
Public Workforce Capacity Fund (PWCF) - James Irvine Foundation	10/01/2024 - 10/01/2025	500,000		55,439	11.09%	444,561
Growth Opportunities - Rnd 5	03/01/2025 - 08/31/2028	2,000,000		1,571	0.08%	1,998,429
Workforce Acceleration Funds (WAF) 13	05/01/2025 - 03/31/2027	500,000		-	0.00%	500,000
TOTAL FUNDING		58,265,176	3,933,531	23,423,122	46.95%	30,908,524

* Total Grant Amount includes ACTUAL carryover from Prior Plan Year 23 - 24
Due to spreadsheet formula rounding calculations, totals may be off by \$1 or \$2

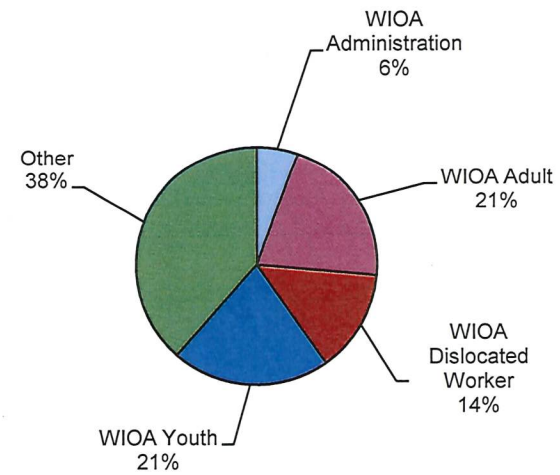
Prepared by: C. Beierschmitt

FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
FINANCIAL REPORTS
April 2025

FRWDB Committed Funds
Fiscal Year 2024-2025

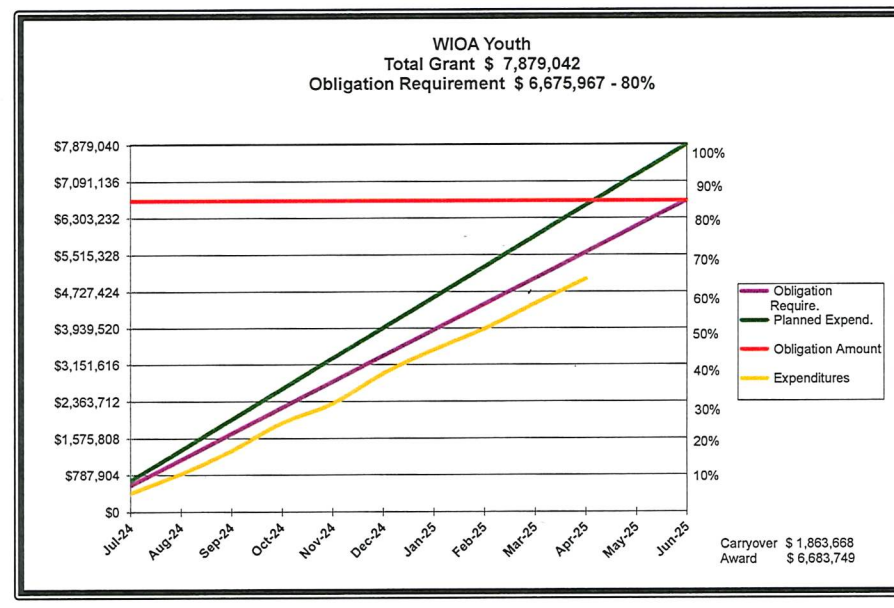
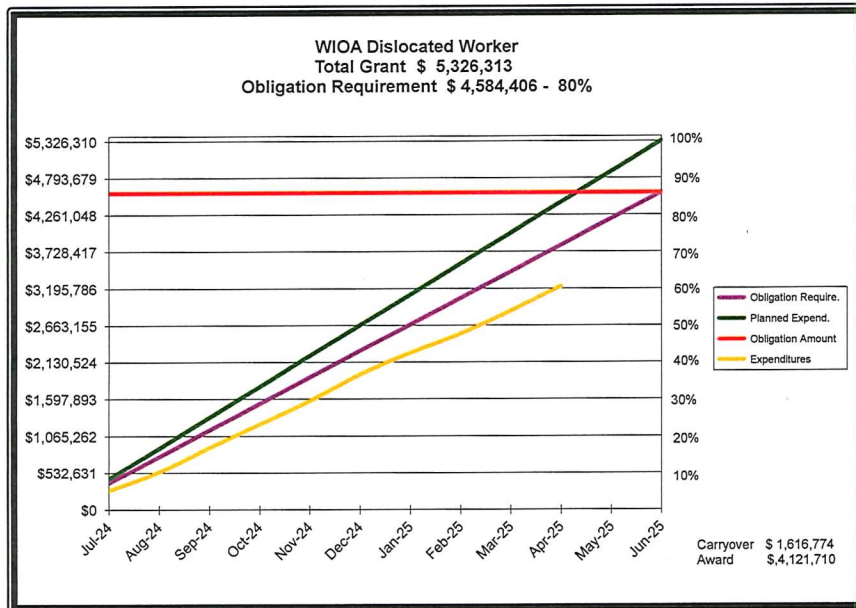
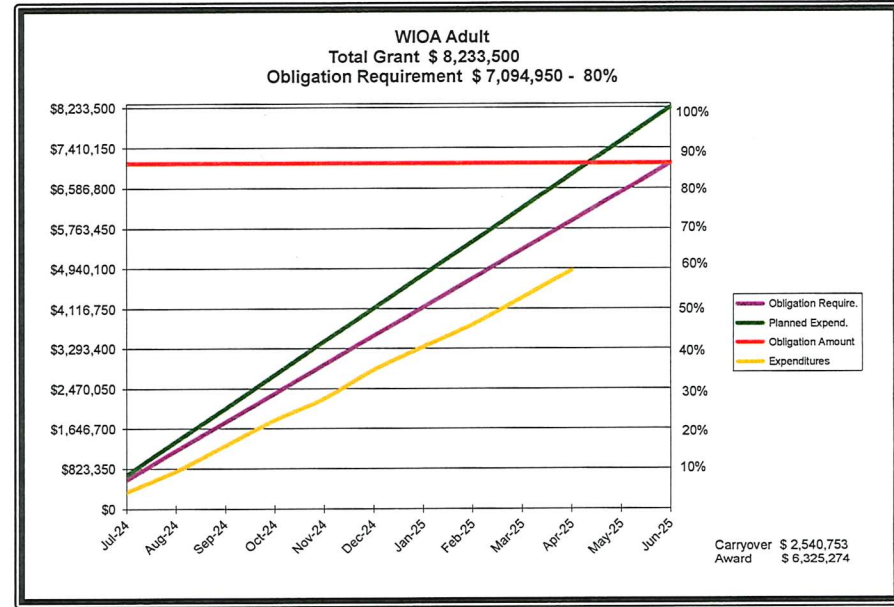
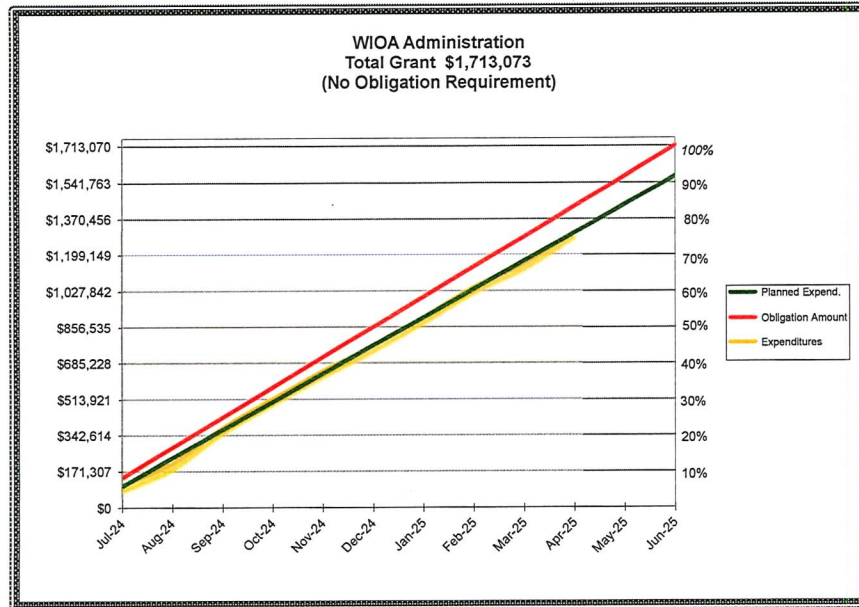


FRWDB Expenditures
Fiscal Year 2024-2025



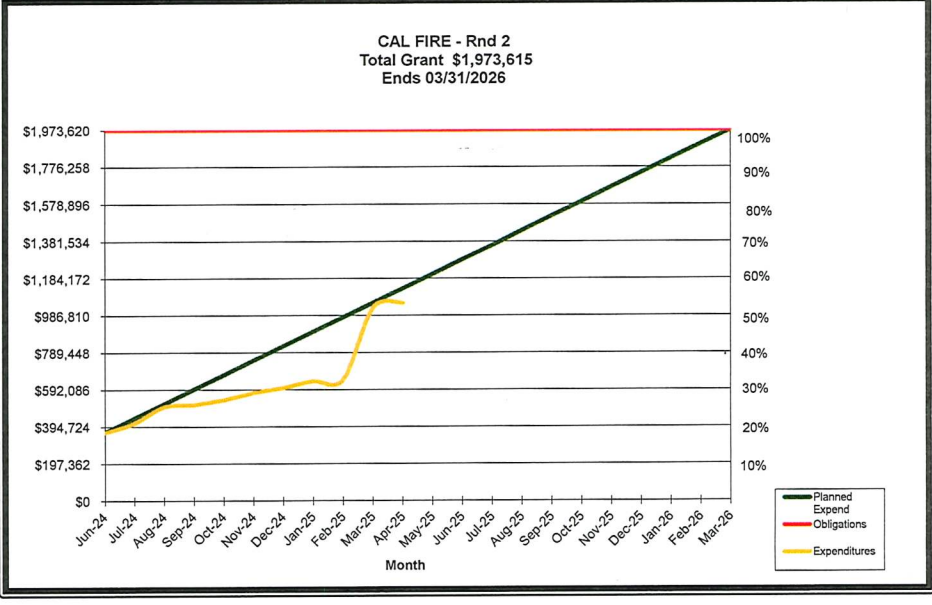
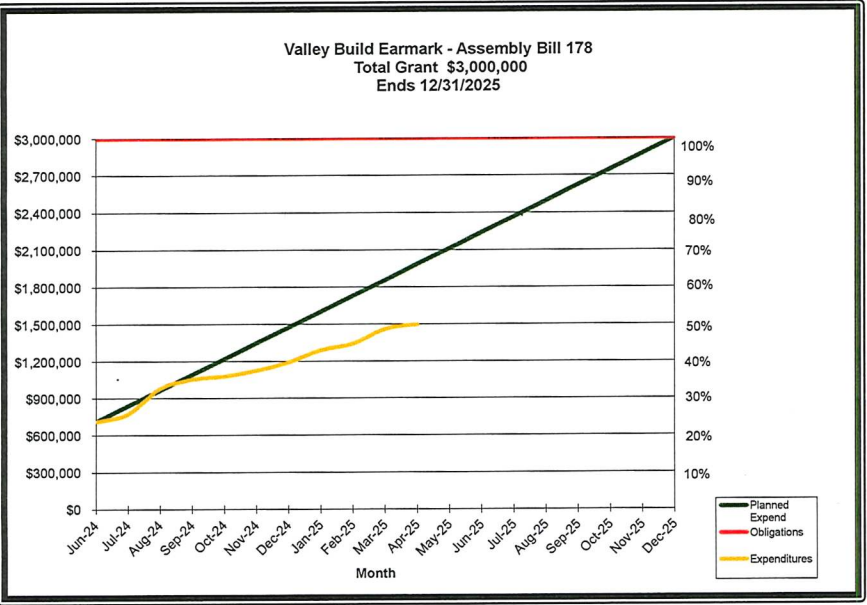
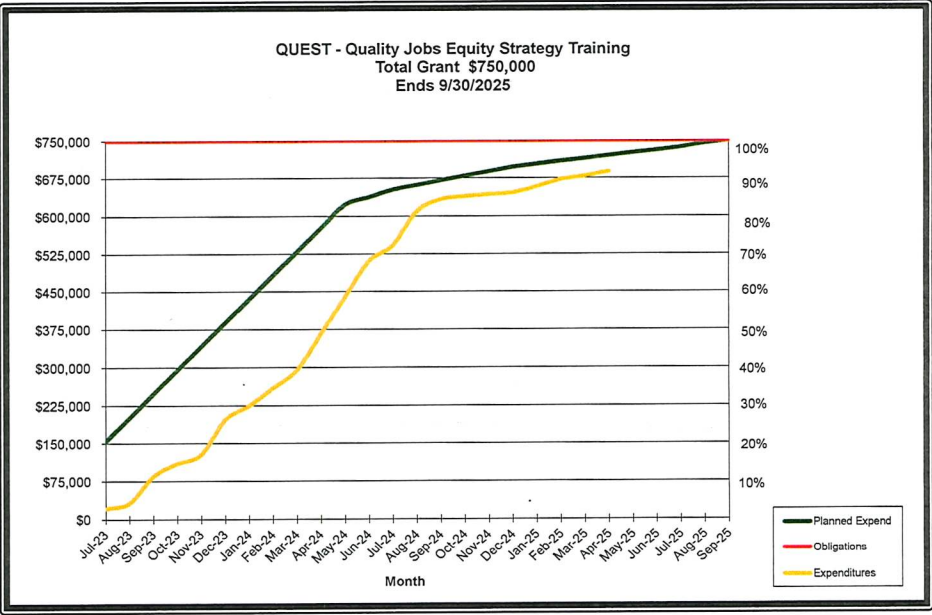
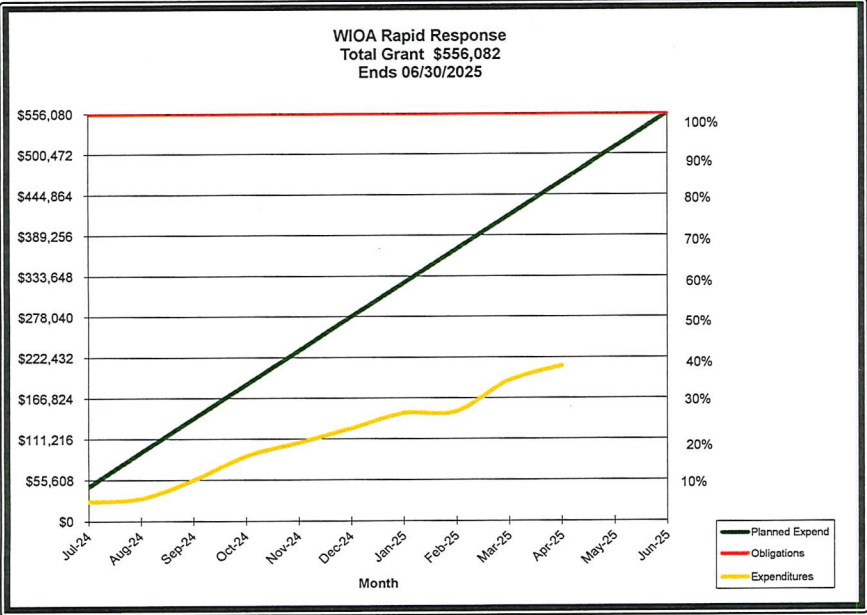
FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FINANCIAL REPORTS

April 2025



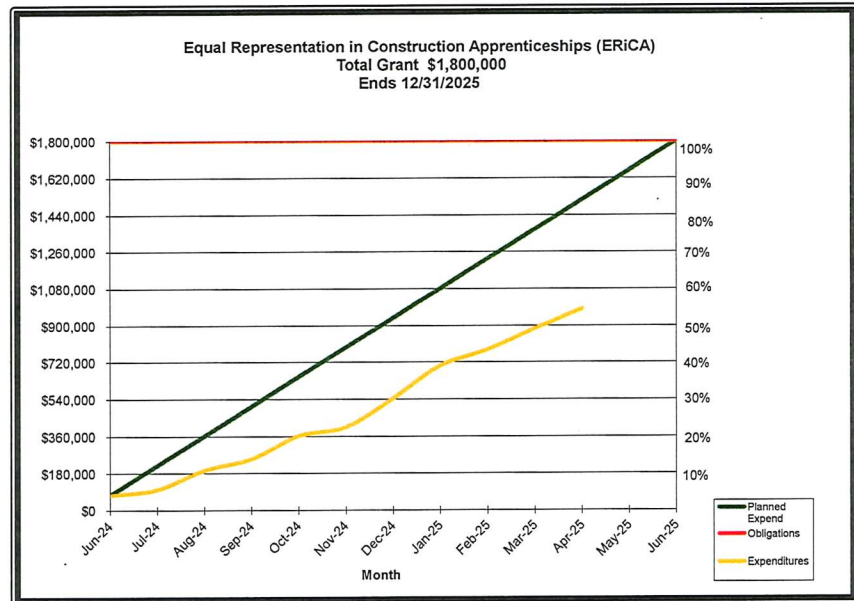
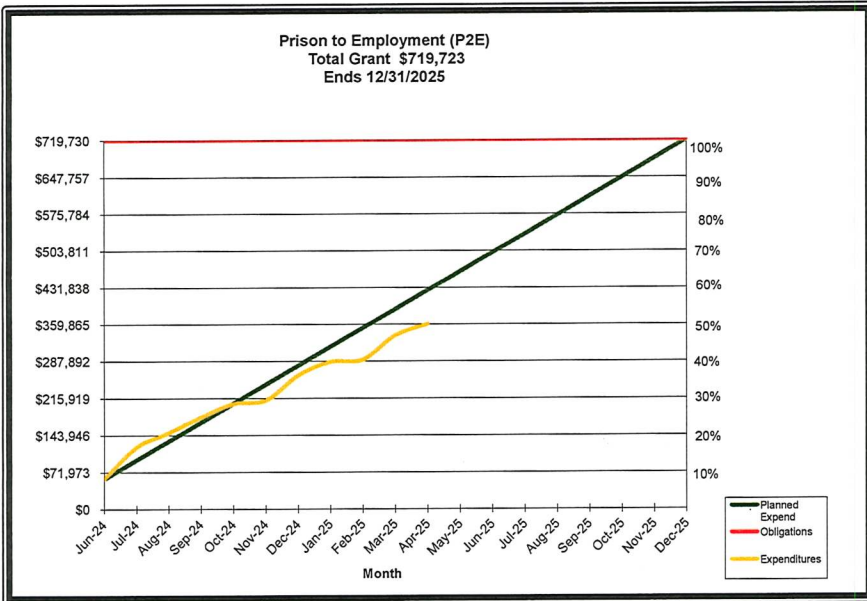
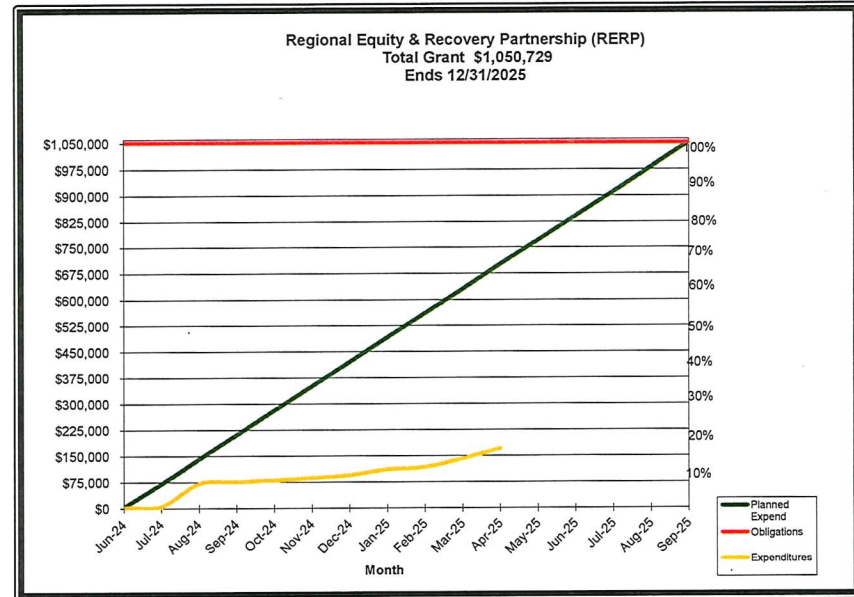
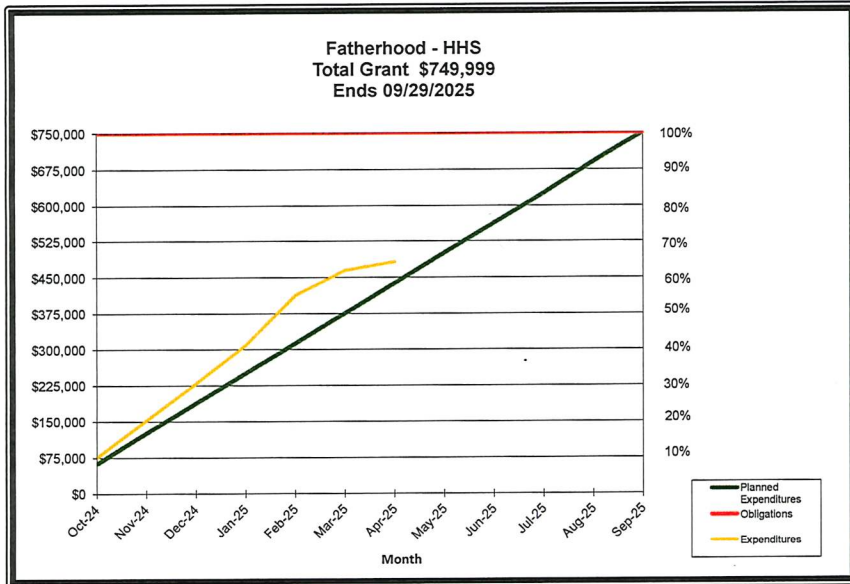
FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FINANCIAL REPORTS

April 2025



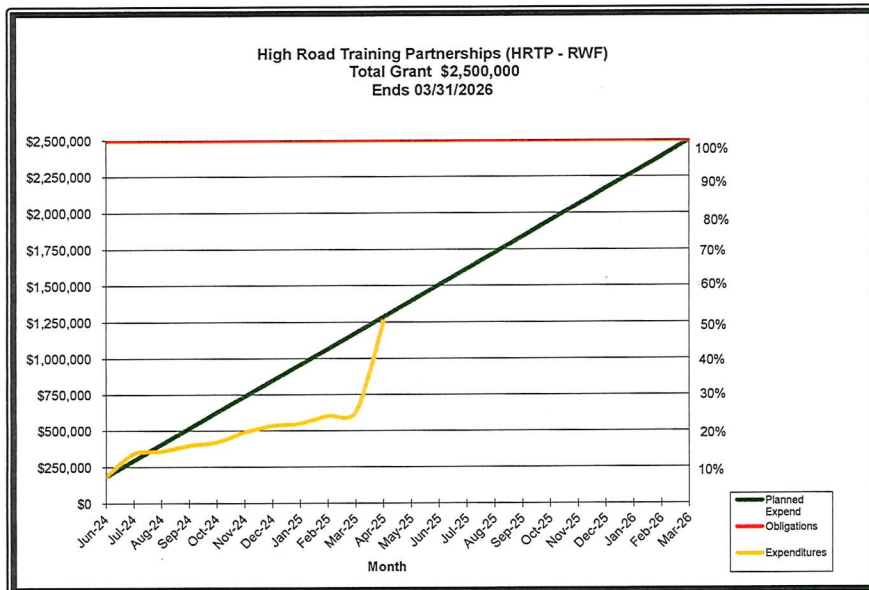
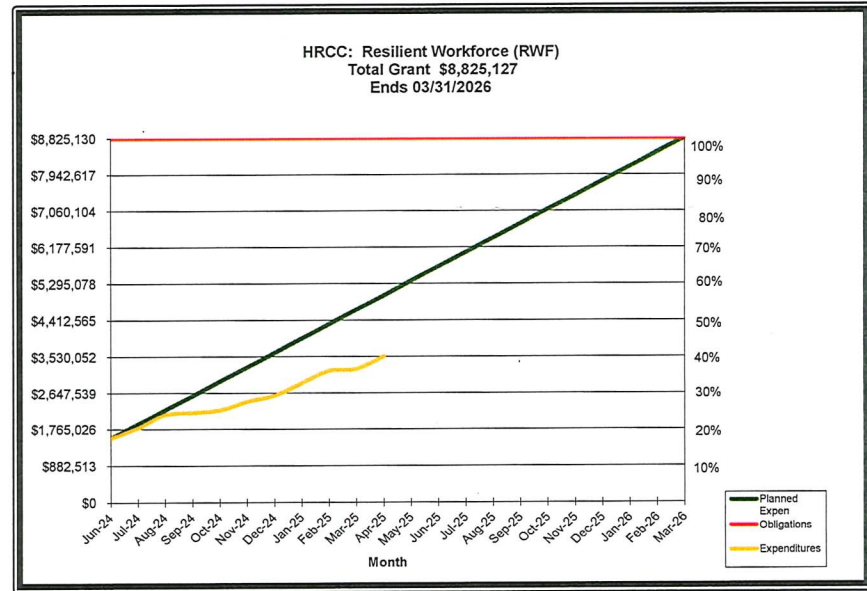
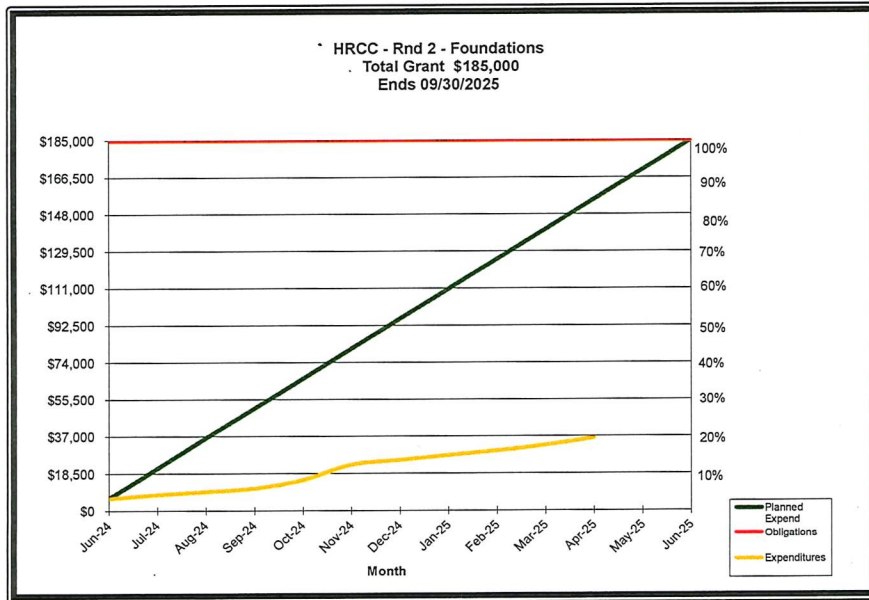
FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FINANCIAL REPORTS

April 2025



FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FINANCIAL REPORTS

April 2025



Consent Items Submitted by the Adult Council

MISSION:

To procure, oversee, evaluate, and continuously improve a One-Stop system that provides employers with qualified job seekers and a means by which job seekers are able to achieve self-sufficiency.

FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

AGENDA ITEM:	A1
MEETING DATE:	June 4, 2025
ACTION:	APPROVE

2125 Kern Street, Suite 208 • Fresno, CA 93721 • (559) 490-7100 • Fax (559) 490-7199 • www.frwdb.net

TO: Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board

FROM: Adult Council

SUBJECT: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Adult and Dislocated Worker Provider Allocations for the First Half of Program Year 2025-2026

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult Provider and Dislocated Worker (DW) allocations for the first half (July 2025 through December 2025) of Program Year (PY) 2025-2026 as outlined below.

The Adult Council approved this recommendation on May 22, 2025.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

On May 2, 2025, the White House released recommendations on federal discretionary funding levels for Fiscal Year 2026. The Make America Skilled Again (MASA) Grant Consolidation saw a funding reduction to the US Department of Labor in the amount of \$1,640,000,000.

On March 14, 2025, Congress passed a continuing resolution to extend current government funding through September 30, 2025. WIOA allotments for PY 2025-2026 are projected to be released after the start of the plan year.

In response to the anticipated reduction in funding and deferred funding notice, FRWDB staff propose the following changes and allocations for the first half of PY 2025-2026:

- Five percent (5%) reduction from prior PY 2024-2025 Adult and DW Provider allocations

	Adult and DW Provider Allocation 2024-2025	Estimated Adult and DW Provider Allocation 2025-2026	Decrease	% Change	July through December 2025 Adult and DW Provider Allocation	July through December 2025 Adult and DW Decrease
CLC – Dislocated Worker	\$1,618,139	\$1,537,232	(\$ 80,907)	5%	\$ 768,616	(\$40,454)
Equus - Adult	\$2,144,975	\$2,037,726	(\$107,249)	5%	\$1,018,863	(\$53,625)
Totals	\$3,763,144	\$3,574,958	(\$188,156)		\$1,787,479	(\$94,079)

Once the actual PY 2025-2026 WIOA Adult funding allocations from the State of California Employment Development Department have been received and FRWDB staff has completed the reconciliation of the PY 2024-2025 carryover, FRWDB staff will bring the revised funding recommendations to the October 23, 2025, Adult Council meeting for their review and recommendation to the FRWDB, for their approval on December 3, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of this item will allocate \$1,787,479 of WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker funds to FRWDB Adult and Dislocated Worker Providers for the first half (Quarters 1 and 2) of PY 2025-2026.

FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

AGENDA ITEM:	A2
MEETING DATE:	June 4, 2025
ACTION:	APPROVE

2125 Kern Street, Suite 208 • Fresno, CA 93721 • (559) 490-7100 • Fax (559) 490-7199 • www.frwdb.net

TO: Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board
FROM: Adult Council
SUBJECT: One-Stop Operator Contract Award

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a contract award for One-Stop Operator (OSO) to ProPath Inc., as outlined below.

The Adult Council approved this recommendation on May 22, 2025.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Section 121(d)(2)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) mandates that Local Workforce Development Boards select an OSO through a competitive process at least once every four (4) years. The current OSO contract was awarded in 2021, and is set to expire on June 30, 2025.

To comply with WIOA requirements, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for OSO services in Fresno County on January 23, 2025. A mandatory bidder's conference was held on January 28, 2025, and the deadline for proposal submissions was February 21, 2025.

Only one (1) proposal was received by the submission deadline from ProPath, Inc, which is the current OSO. As outlined in the FRWDB Procurement Policy, a minimum of three (3) responsive proposals is required for a competitive procurement. Therefore, this procurement was declared a failed competition.

Despite the limited response, FRWDB staff evaluated ProPath, Inc.'s proposal and determined that it met all the minimum criteria specified in the RFP. Therefore, FRWDB staff requests that the FRWDB award the OSO contract to ProPath, Inc. for an initial term from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$49,950, and with the option to renew for an additional three (3) years based on performance and funding availability.

FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

AGENDA ITEM:	A3
MEETING DATE:	June 4, 2025
ACTION:	APPROVE

2125 Kern Street, Suite 208 • Fresno, CA 93721 • (559) 490-7100 • Fax (559) 490-7199 • www.frwdb.net

TO: Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board

FROM: Adult Council

SUBJECT: Human Resource Development and Organizational Development Support Services Award Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a contract award for Human Resource Development and Organizational Development Support Services (HRD-OD) to Sierra HR Partners, Inc. for an initial term from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, in the amount not to exceed \$49,900, and with the option to renew for an additional four (4) years based on performance and funding availability.

The Adult Council approved this recommendation on May 22, 2025.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) procurement policy requires that contracts for goods and services be procured every five (5) years. The current contract for HRD-OD was awarded in June 2020, and is set to expire on June 30, 2025.

To ensure compliance with the FRWDB procurement policy, staff released a Request for Quotes (RFQ) on February 26, 2025, to solicit quotes for HRD-OD services. The submission deadline for quotes was March 19, 2025.

Only one (1) quote was received by the March 19, 2025, submission deadline from Sierra HR Partners, Inc. As outlined in the FRWDB procurement policy, a minimum of three (3) responsive quotes is required for a competitive procurement. Therefore, this procurement was declared a failed competition.

Despite the limited response, FRWDB staff evaluated Sierra HR Partners, Inc.'s proposal and determined that it met all minimum criteria specified in the RFQ. Therefore, FRWDB staff is requesting that the FRWDB award the HRD-OD contract to Sierra HR Partners.

FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

AGENDA ITEM:	A4
MEETING DATE:	June 4, 2025
ACTION:	APPROVE

2125 Kern Street, Suite 208 • Fresno, CA 93721 • (559) 490-7100 • Fax (559) 490-7199 • www.frwdb.net

TO: Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board

FROM: Adult Council

SUBJECT: Human Resources Hotline and Business Workshop Award Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a contract award for Human Resources Hotline Services and Business Workshops to Sierra HR Partners, Inc. for an initial term from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, in the amount not to exceed \$23,800, and with the option to renew for an additional four (4) years based on performance and funding availability.

The Adult Council approved this recommendation on May 22, 2025.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) Procurement Policy requires contracts for goods and services be procured every five (5) years. The current contract for Human Resources Hotline Services and Business Workshops was procured and awarded in June of 2020, and is set to expire on June 30, 2025.

To ensure compliance with the FRWDB Procurement Policy, FRWDB staff released a Request for Quotes (RFQ) on March 19, 2025, to solicit quotes for the Human Resources Hotline Services and Business Workshops. The submission deadline for quotes was April 16, 2025.

Only one (1) quote was received by the April 16, 2025, submission deadline from Sierra HR Partners, Inc. As outlined in the FRWDB Procurement Policy, a minimum of three (3) responsive quotes are required for a competitive procurement. Therefore, this procurement was declared a failed competition.

Despite the limited response, FRWDB staff evaluated Sierra HR Partner, Inc.'s quote and determined that it met all minimum criteria specified in the RFQ. Therefore, FRWDB staff requests that the FRWDB award the Human Resources Hotline Services and Business Workshops contract to Sierra HR Partners, Inc.

FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

AGENDA ITEM:	A5
MEETING DATE:	June 4, 2025
ACTION:	APPROVE

2125 Kern Street, Suite 208 • Fresno, CA 93721 • (559) 490-7100 • Fax (559) 490-7199 • www.frwddb.net

TO: Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board

FROM: Adult Council

SUBJECT: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act 2025-2028 Local and Regional Plans

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local and Regional Plans.

The Adult Council approved this recommendation on May 22, 2025.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

WIOA Sections 106 and 108 and California UI Code Sections 14221-14222 require that local boards submit a comprehensive four (4) year Regional and Local Plan (Plan) to the state board. On December 20, 2024, the state released the Directive on Regional and Local Planning Guidance for 2025-2028 (WSD 24-09). This directive provided guidance and established the procedures regarding the preparation of both Regional and Local Plans required by the WIOA. WIOA Public Law Sections 106 and 107 and California Unemployment Insurance Code Sections 14221 – 14222 require that local boards submit a comprehensive four (4)-year Regional and Local Plan to the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB).

The CWDB's Strategic Workforce Development Plan for California has a broad vision and outlines ambitious goals for how the public workforce system can work with its partners to shape and support economic prosperity across the state and its regions. Under WIOA, the state has established 15 Regional Planning Units (RPUs) within the State of California that align workforce development activities and resources within the context of a larger regional economy and to develop and deploy available resources to provide coordinated and efficient services to job seekers and employers. Each RPU is required to develop a regional strategic plan. The Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) is one (1) of eight (8) Workforce Development Boards in the designated San Joaquin Valley and Associated Counties RPU. The other local boards include Kern-Inyo-Mono, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare.

Under the State Plan, the primary purpose of local workforce plans and partnerships is to facilitate access to workforce services at the local level. While WIOA Section 106 Regional Plans and partnerships are specifically focused on construction of a regional training and education architecture that aligns with regional labor markets, the Local Plan addresses how individuals will access and experience this regional workforce architecture primarily through local service delivery efforts, principally those of WIOA partners operating in the America's Job Centers of California system, but potentially through other partners of the workforce system as well. In this regard, it is typically at the local level where services will be integrated, resources braided, and supportive services provided to individuals being served by partners.

In order to complete all aspects of the Plans, the Directive mandates that each local board release the draft Plan for a 30-day public comment period and hold a public meeting for stakeholders to ensure

opportunities to participate in, and provide feedback on, the Local Plan as part of the initial development of the Plan. The stakeholder meeting was held October 10, 2024. The draft plan was released for a 30-day public comment period on February 26, 2025, with comments due by March 25, 2025.

There were no comments in disagreement with the draft Plan received during the public comment period, and there were no comments received that resulted in significant changes to the initial draft Plan.

As outlined in the Directive, the final Plan is required to be submitted to the state board no later than April 27, 2025. The Directive allowed for the final plan to be submitted pending approval and final signatures. Due to the timing of the meeting schedules for the FRWDB, and the Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs); the Fresno City Council and Fresno County Board of Supervisors, the final plans were submitted to the state by the required deadline, pending final signatures.

Upon approval of this item, the Plans will be presented to the FRWDB and the CLEOs in June 2025, for approval and signature. The final Plans with all required signatures will be submitted to the state by June 30, 2025.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ATTACHMENT I: Program Year 2025-2028 Local Plan – Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board
- ATTACHMENT II: San Joaquin Valley and Associated Counties Regional Planning Unit Regional Plan

Program Year 2025 – 2028 Local Plan

Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board



Contact: Blake Konczal, Executive Director
Phone: (559) 490-7102
[Email: bkonzal@workforce-connection.com](mailto:bkonzal@workforce-connection.com)

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I. INTRODUCTION and OVERVIEW

In accordance with the requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 and guidance published by California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) and Employment Development Department (EDD), the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) has developed a four (4)-year Local Plan covering Program Years (PYs) 2025-2028. Following approval by state officials representing the Governor, the Plan will be effective from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029.

FRWDB represents the City of Fresno and the County of Fresno and serves all communities within the county's boundaries. Pursuant to this partnership, a non-profit organization, the Fresno Area Workforce Investment Corporation (FAWIC) has been established and functions as the administrator for workforce programs within the local workforce development area (LWDA). Throughout this Plan, for ease of review, the entity responsible for workforce program administration, oversight, and service delivery is generally referred to as FRWDB.

A. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Passed by Congress with a wide bipartisan majority, WIOA was signed into law on July 22, 2014. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in a global economy. WIOA represents the most recent version of federal workforce legislation providing funding to states and local areas to administer and operate workforce development programs. WIOA was preceded by the Job Training Partnership Act (active from 1982 to 2000) and the Workforce Investment Act (active from 2000 to 2015).

WIOA promotes accountability and transparency through negotiated performance goals that are publicly available; fosters regional collaboration within states through local workforce areas; and supports a nationwide network of career centers, which are branded within the state as America's Job Centers of California (AJCCs) and within all of Fresno County as Workforce Connection centers.

While the PY 2025-28 Local Plan addresses collaboration among many organizations that derive their primary funding from a wide range of federal, state, and private programs, it is WIOA that requires the development and publication of the Plan and that prescribes its core content.

B. Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board

WIOA requires that a workforce development board (WDB) be established in each LWDA. The area's chief local elected officials appoint members to the WDB. Locally, the Mayor of the City of Fresno and the Fresno County Board of Supervisors fulfill this function. Local boards are business-led, and the majority of members must come from the business community. Required WDB members also include representatives from labor, education, economic development, and specific federally funded workforce programs. The chief local elected officials may also select representatives from other groups, such as community-based organizations, to sit on the WDB.

WDBs drive the vision for the workforce system and maintain the critical role of leading and providing oversight for local WIOA programs. WDBs also play a critical role in promoting, sustaining, and growing regional economies. They are responsible for aligning investments in job training, integrating service delivery across programs, and ensuring that workforce investments are job-driven and match skilled workers with employers.

WIOA indicates that the development of the Local Plan, along with the associated Regional Plan, is a primary responsibility of the WDB.

C. Local Plans and the WIOA Planning Structure

FRWDB's Local Plan is best understood within the context of a three (3)-tiered planning structure envisioned by WIOA that requires the development of plans at the state, regional, and local levels.

State Plans: Under WIOA, state plans communicate the vision for the statewide workforce development system. WIOA planning requirements aim to foster effective alignment of federal investments across job training and education programs, in order to coordinate service delivery among programs for shared customers; improve efficiency; and ensure that the workforce system connects individuals with high-quality job opportunities and employers. Cross-program planning promotes a shared understanding of the workforce needs within each state. California's PY 2024-2027 Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan represents agreement among the WIOA core program and other partners and serves as the framework for the development of public policy, fiscal investment, and operation of the state workforce and education systems.

Regional Plans: In states such as California, where Governors have established workforce planning regions encompassing one or more LWDAs, regional plans are required. Local WDBs within the region participate in a planning process that describes elements such as: analysis of regional labor market data, development, and implementation of sector initiatives for targeted industries and in-demand occupations; coordination of workforce services with regional economic development services and providers; and establishment of regional service

strategies, including use of cooperative service delivery agreements. Along with seven (7) other local areas, the Fresno County LWDA is part of the San Joaquin Valley and Associated Counties Regional Planning Unit (SJVAC RPU), which is one (1) of California's 15 workforce regions.

Local Plans: The Local Plan is intended to serve as a four (4)-year action plan to develop, align, and integrate the local area's job-driven workforce development systems and provide a platform to achieve the local area's vision and strategic and operational goals. Features of the Local Plan include: Coordination among economic development, education, and workforce partners to build a skilled workforce through innovation in, and alignment of, employment, training and education programs; implementation of job-driven strategies and services through the local career center system; and delivery of education and training to ensure that individuals, including youth and individuals with barriers to employment, have skills necessary to compete in the job market and that employers have a ready supply of skilled workers.

WIOA requires that Local Plans be incorporated into the Regional Plan. Therefore, the PY 2025-28 FRWDB Local Plan is officially part of the PY 2025-28 SJVAC RPU Regional Plan.

D. California's Strategic Workforce Priorities

California's Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan describes the state's priorities for the public workforce system.

Under the leadership of the Governor and the Secretary of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, California's vision for the future of workforce development is centered on the establishment and growth of a workforce system that promotes opportunity, job quality, and environmental sustainability for all Californians. The state is committed to developing a workforce system that enables economic growth and shared prosperity for employers and employees, especially those with barriers to employment, by investing in industry partnerships, job quality, and meaningful skills attainment. One area in which the CWDB pursues these aims is through its "High Road" programming. High Road refers to a "family of strategies" for achieving a participatory economy and society by aligning workforce, economic policy, and different interests with long-term goals of environmental sustainability, high-quality jobs, and a resilient economy. High Road emphasizes the complementary nature of these aims over the long term. In practice, High Road policy builds upon areas where the interest of employers (in trained and productive workers), workers and jobseekers (in good quality and accessible jobs), and environmental protection (for a sustainable future for all) overlap to create pathways to high-quality jobs while raising the profile of existing ones.

In consideration of the practical implementation of High Road principles in workforce development policy, the CWDB describes in the current State Plan four (4) distinct “flavors” or styles of intervention. These interventions are directly relevant to High Road projects but also inform, to a greater or lesser extent, all of CWDB’s workforce efforts. They include: (1) lifting all workers to the “High Road;” (2) professionalizing precarious work (i.e., employment that is temporary, non-standard, and insecure, often with poor pay and no protection); (3) democratizing access to high-quality, middle-skill jobs; and (4) participatory planning for a low-carbon economy.

In accordance with the requirements of WIOA, both the FRWDB PY 2025-28 Local Plan and the PY 2025-28 SJVAC RPU Regional Plan support the State Plan priorities by:

- Maintaining a dual focus on providing programs and services that meet the needs and support the goals of businesses and job seekers/workers.
- Concentrating on industry sectors which drive growth and prosperity within local labor markets and regional economies.
- Targeting jobs that offer career advancement opportunities and that lead to positions that pay family-sustaining wages and provide pathways to the middle class.
- Committing to the adoption and implementation of strategies and processes that support environmental sustainability and climate resilience through workforce development.

E. Development of FRWDB’s Program Years 25-28 Local Plan

Development of the Local Plan was the result of FRWDB’s internal discussions, as well as engagement with organizations and individuals throughout Fresno County who guide, contribute to, and benefit from workforce system services. As summarized in Attachment 1, a community and stakeholder forum was held. Developing the Plan also involved a process of reviewing and evaluating existing partnerships, services, and systems and identifying areas that can be strengthened. FRWDB’s executive leadership led the planning process on behalf of the local board. Completing the Plan took approximately six (6) months, after which it was made available for public review and comment, prior to being forwarded to the California Workforce Development Board for review.

F. Areas of Focus for the Workforce Development Board

The FRWDB has developed the following mission and vision statements to guide its work:

Mission: Under a Joint Powers Authority established between the City and County of Fresno, the FRWDB works in partnership with the public and private sectors to

assist local businesses in meeting their human capital needs. Workforce system providers screen and train prospective new employees and assist in upskilling existing employees. By offering quality referrals and training services that are directly linked to local industry needs, the local workforce system benefits unemployed and underemployed clients.

Vision: To fully engage all available public and private resources to ensure that the Fresno Regional Workforce Development system is the premier source for the human capital needs of growth industry clusters within Fresno County; to integrate education and workforce preparation to assist the best companies in Fresno County to remain and thrive in our local community, achieving sustainable economic growth; and to concurrently assist our unemployed and underemployed residents to achieve a higher quality of life by accessing careers in growth industry sectors.

In 2024, members of FRWDB's Executive Committee held a strategic planning discussion during which they identified four core areas of focus for the board and the local workforce development programs they oversee. Included are:

1. Workforce Capacity in Key Industries

Major industries throughout Fresno County and the entirety of the San Joaquin Valley are facing challenges from climate, technology, and wide range of other factors. FRWDB will focus on preparing a pipeline of workers for industries facing emerging challenges, including those that are resilient to change and provide pathways to well-paid employment and career advancement. Industries for which services will be targeted include, but are not limited to, agriculture, agricultural manufacturing, construction, forestry, government, and green energy.

2. Workforce Skills

FRWDB aims to provide training and cultivate a workforce that is equipped not only with technical expertise, but also with social and emotional intelligence, encompassing essential workplace skills that are applicable across multiple industries and occupations. As the labor market changes, these skills will ensure that workers are able to readily adapt, grow, and succeed in the workplace.

3. Community Capacity and Resilience

Anticipating challenges outside the immediate purview of the board is critical to the success of the local workforce system. The board attempts to identify and formulate solutions to address community issues to minimize their impact on workforce system operations. Some community-wide issues that FRWDB will continue to examine include the availability of digital connections and technology; access to public education resources; and creating mechanisms for community input. Digital connectivity has been

identified as a significant challenge, and FRWDB's involvement in shaping policies can enhance digital access for workforce system participants. The workforce system also guides participants to various resources, enabling them to access public education programs and simplifying the process. FRWDB is also committed to working in collaboration with public education entities to streamline programs and schedules to provide working adults greater opportunities to enhance their education and skills.

4. Individual Workforce Readiness

The FRWDB seeks to enhance job seekers' individual workforce readiness by tackling digital literacy and the absence of fundamental digital skills that are crucial to competing for and securing well-paying jobs. Additionally, FRWDB believes that it is crucial to approach participants holistically, focusing on effective connections to services beyond the workforce system's immediate scope. Furthermore, at an early age, young individuals must be introduced to various career paths, thereby establishing a feeder system into the workforce programs that will equip them with job skills.

G. System Goals and Priorities

During the process used to develop the PY 2025-28 Local Plan, community members, local stakeholders, and system partners were invited to participate in discussions regarding the direction of the local workforce system over the next four (4) years. As a result of these discussions, the following priorities have been identified:

- Increasing service accessibility
- Services for rural communities
- Support for refugees and English language learners
- Support for older workers
- Increasing digital skills and ability to utilize advanced technology
- Business partners and securing business input
- Support for entrepreneurs
- Workforce development system staff learning and development
- Greater resources

Section V of this Plan summarizes these and other issues, strategies, approaches, and key considerations that FRWDB and the system partners will examine over the four (4)-year course of this Plan.

II. WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT CORE AND REQUIRED PARTNER COORDINATION

The WIOA includes requirements for Local Boards to establish a framework for collaboration among state and local programs that are financially supported by nineteen distinct federal fund sources. Six (6) of these programs constitute the four “core partners:” the WIOA Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs; the WIOA Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act Program; the WIOA Title III Wagner-Peyser Act Program; and the WIOA Title IV State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program. The core partners, together with 13 other federally supported programs, make up the WIOA-mandated One-Stop partners. The FRWDB has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the organizations managing each federal program at the local level. The narrative that follows describes coordination with the WIOA core and other required program partners as prescribed by WIOA.

A. Coordination with AJCC Partners and WIOA Memorandum of Understanding

Over the last 40 years, FRWDB has built strong and effective relationships with state and local agencies that represent the One-Stop partner programs. Over the next four (4) years, FRWDB looks forward to further enhancing coordination with each of the workforce system partners.

Overview of Local One-Stop System Partners

Following is a summary of the local/regional organizations representing the 19 federal One-Stop partner programs with which the FRWDB has entered into an MOU.

Federal Partner Programs	MOU Partner
WIOA Title I Adult WIOA Title I Dislocated Worker WIOA Title I Youth	▪ Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board
WIOA Title II Adult Education and Literacy	▪ State Center Adult Education Consortium ▪ West Hills Adult Education Consortium
WIOA Title III Wagner-Peyser	▪ Employment Development Department
WIOA Title IV Vocational Rehabilitation Carl Perkins Career Technical Education	▪ California Department of Rehabilitation ▪ State Center Community College District ▪ West Hills Community College District

Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program	▪ SER – Jobs for Progress
Job Corps	▪ Career Systems Development Corporation/San Jose Job Corps Center
Native American Programs (WIOA Section 166)	▪ California Indian Manpower Consortium
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers (WIOA Section 167)	▪ Proteus, Inc.
Jobs for Veterans State Grants	▪ Employment Development Department
Youth Build	▪ Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)	▪ Employment Development Department
Community Services Block Grant	▪ Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
Housing and Urban Development E&T	▪ Fresno Housing Authority
Unemployment Insurance (UI)	▪ Employment Development Department
Second Chance Act Grantee	▪ GRID Alternatives
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/CalWORKs	▪ Fresno County Department of Social Services

Memoranda of Understanding with System Partners

The general roles and responsibilities of each partner listed above are:

- Continuous partnership building between all parties.
- Continuous partnership building and planning that is responsive to state requirements.
- Continuous partnership between state and local representatives engaged in WIOA activities and related workforce preparation and development.
- Responsiveness to specific local and economic conditions, including employer needs.
- Adherence to strategic planning principles adopted by the WIOA for long range planning, including the requirement for continuous improvement.
- Adherence to common data collection and reporting, including needs for modification or change.
- Diligence in developing coordinated local leadership in workforce development.
- Responsiveness to participant/customer needs.
- Maintenance of system infrastructure.
- Shared technology and information.
- Performance management to measure the success of the local One-Stop system, overall, and to enhance performance in a spirit of quality management and continuous improvement; and
- Identification of each partner's appropriate contribution to meeting the performance standards negotiated between the State of California and FRWDB.

The MOU also indicates that infrastructure costs shall be allocated as follows:

- EDD, DOR, DSS, Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, and State Center Community College District contribute financially to the

infrastructure costs, allocated by square footage and communication costs for each partner, as outlined in the Resource Sharing Agreement.

- Communication Costs: Each partner shall be allocated the communication costs at the site based upon the percentage of the number of square feet the partner commits to use relative to the total space.
- In addition, partners contribute through the provision of in-kind services, such as assisting with the AJCC's Self-Reliance Team, assisting individuals in the resource room, and providing receptionist staff.

Coordination with AJCC Partner Programs

The following information summarizes the ways in which FRWDB, and the local workforce system collaborate with organizations managing the federally mandated One-Stop partner programs.

WIOA Title I – Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs: The three (3) formula-funded programs are administered by FRWDB. Services are delivered at two (2) comprehensive and two (2) affiliate AJCCs.

WIOA Title II – Adult Education and Literacy: The State Center Adult Education Consortium, which serves Fresno and Madera counties and border communities in Tulare County, and the West Hills Regional Consortium provide WIOA Title II Adult Education and Literacy Services in the local area. Referrals are regularly made between the Title I and Title II programs, and many participants are co-enrolled. State Center Adult Education Consortium representatives visit the AJCCs to meet potential students. The consortium is also represented on FRWDB's Youth Council. When the California Department of Education solicits applications for services under the WIOA Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) program, FRWDB staff reviews applications to determine how they complement the Local Plan.

WIOA Title III – Wagner-Peyser: Wagner-Peyser staff is co-located in the Workforce Connection AJCC Centers in Fresno and Mendota. In addition, FRWDB and AJCC staff work with EDD to coordinate marketing and outreach to Unemployment Insurance claimants, ensuring full access to all available WIOA services. EDD and FRWDB also collaborate on Rapid Response orientations for laid off workers, providing Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) workshops both in-person and online.

WIOA Title IV – Vocational Rehabilitation: WIOA Title IV staff are co-located at the West Shaw Comprehensive Workforce Connection Center. WIOA and DOR staff are cross trained in the eligibility requirements for each partner's services in order to ensure appropriate referrals. Regular meetings are held to discuss and enhance the referral process and co-enrollments. DOR staff is available to provide technical assistance and training to all AJCC and partner staff in areas such as disability awareness, assistive technology, service strategies, and the use of

competitive integrated employment. Partners also provide cross training to DOR staff.

Carl Perkins Career Technical Education: The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) is a principal source of federal funding to states and discretionary grantees for the improvement of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs across the nation. The purpose of the act is to more fully develop the academic, career, and technical skills of secondary and postsecondary students who elect to enroll in career and technical education programs. The community colleges and the adult schools, which are the primary recipients of Perkins funding in Fresno County, regularly make referrals to and receive referrals from staff of the AJCCs.

Title V Older Americans Act: SER – Jobs for Progress operates the Senior Community Service Employment Programs (SCSEP) that serves Fresno County Residents. The program offers outreach, intake, and orientation services; provides information and referrals to supportive services available to eligible persons; provides group presentations; provides older Americans workshops; provides group counseling services; offers short-term pre-vocational services; enrolls eligible seniors who are 55+, low income, and have barriers to employment; and provides part-time, temporary on the job training through community service assignments at local nonprofits and government agencies to enrolled participants. The Workforce Connection centers utilize the services of SCSEP participants, with service providers acting as the host employers.

Job Corps: Program representatives conduct eligibility determination for Job Corps services. Their principal activity at the AJCC is to promote the Job Corps program to potential applicants who are youth and young adults ages 16 to 24. The upper-age limit may be waived for individuals with disclosed disabilities who meet all other eligibility requirements. Fresno area youth and young adults are principally recruited for enrollment at the San Jose Job Corps Center, but may be referred to other sites, based on their career interests and preferences.

Native American Programs (WIOA Section 166): FRWDB works closely with the local office of California Indian Manpower Consortium, which is co-located in the West Shaw Workforce Connection comprehensive center and collaborates with WIOA staff to provide referrals and co-enrollment opportunities to provide Indian and Native American job seekers access to all WIOA and partner services available through FRWDB's local network of AJCCs.

Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Program (WIOA Section 167): FRWDB has a long history of collaboration with Proteus, Inc., which administers and operates the Migrant Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) program in Fresno County to ensure MSFW programs services are available for eligible participants. WIOA program staff works with MSFW staff to provide referrals and co-enrollment opportunities. Proteus offers migrant and seasonal farmworker customers with basic career services, vocational

training, work-based learning, work readiness training, English as a Second Language, General Equivalency Diploma (GED) services, and supportive services. Vocational training includes programs teaching skills for truck drivers, forklift operators, solar panel installers, weatherization, and office automation.

Jobs for Veterans State Grants: EDD administers the Jobs for Veterans State Grants program and designated Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program, and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives specialists are stationed at the West Shaw comprehensive Workforce Connection center to assist veterans seeking employment.

Youth Build: In Fresno County, YouthBuild is embedded within the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC's) Conservation Corps Program. Corps members are required to enroll and progress in an academic program concurrent with their full or part-time enrollment in the Conservation Corps' paid skill-building vocational training programs. Corps members lacking a high school diploma enroll in the on-site YouthBuild Charter High School of California.

Trade Adjustment Assistance Act: Trade Adjustment Assistance Act (TAA) is a federal program intended to provide aid to workers who lose their jobs or whose hours of work and wages are reduced as a result of increased imports. The TAA program has offered a variety of benefits and reemployment services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Under TAA, workers were eligible for training, job search, and other reemployment services. Coordination with TAA generally included co-enrollment into WIOA, which provided multiple benefits, including TAA funds being used to cover all training costs. While TAA is technically a required partner program, it is currently an unfunded initiative and, except for work that exhausts the final federal allocation of funds, services have been suspended.

Community Services Block Grant: The Fresno EOC supports AJCC staff with referrals, depending on eligibility requirements, to any Community Services Block Grant services and any other services available through Fresno EOC, such as Women, Infants and Children services and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, which are accessible at the West Shaw Workforce Connection center.

Unemployment Compensation: The Unemployment Insurance (UI) program is generally represented in the AJCCs by EDD's Wagner-Peyser staff. FRWDB and AJCC staff work with EDD staff to coordinate marketing and outreach to UI claimants, ensuring full access to all available WIOA services.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/CalWORKs: Fresno County Department of Social Services (DSS) staff is co-located at the comprehensive Fresno AJCC. DSS staff function as liaisons between AJCC WIOA partner staff and DSS participants

B. Partners' Efforts to Collaborate on Co-Enrollment and Case Management

In every aspect of our operations, FRWDB attempts to identify and implement strategies to achieve efficiencies and to leverage resources on behalf of the participants we serve. Co-enrollment of job seekers into programs beyond WIOA has long been part of this approach. While we recognize that more work needs to be done to structure and strengthen our approaches to co-enrollment, we are prepared to work closely with workforce system partners to build upon existing approaches.

Current Efforts that Foster Co-Enrollment and Co-Case Management

There are many examples of ways in which FRWDB's AJCCs have collaborated with partners to jointly serve shared customers. For instance, under a state-funded project for English language learners, the AJCCs, WIOA Title II-funded education agencies, and several community-based agencies co-enrolled participants into education, workforce training, and support services programs to holistically support job seekers in achieving their employment goals.

FRWDB also pursues various methods of collaboration with partners that promote co-enrollment of participants in two or more programs. These include:

Acceptance of Partners' Assessment Results: AJCCs will accept WorkKeys, Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS), or Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) assessments that have been administered by other organizations within the last six (6) months. Typically, the referring organization (e.g., adult education) has already enrolled the customers for which the assessment was administered.

Orienting Job Seekers to All Partner Programs: FRWDB's AJCCs conduct orientation sessions both in person and online. These sessions provide information on the One-Stop partner programs, thereby promoting not just WIOA, but various compatible programs and services.

Cross Training Staff: Under the direction of the One-Stop Operator, workforce system stakeholders participate in instruction, including cross-training, which enables staff to make informed referrals of clients to various programs.

Co-Location of Partners: The WIOA core program partners, along with many of the other One-Stop partners and local stakeholders, are co-located at FRWDB's Workforce Connection centers. WIOA staff may also be present at partner sites,

where they assist in supporting self-directed services and in making referrals to system partners.

Intensive Collaboration with Partners: One-on-one meetings with partners, such as representatives of the State of California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), DSS, and Fresno County Child Support Services are common, as they help to maintain operational support of referral processes, track shared clients, and strategize regarding more effective forms of service delivery.

C. One-Stop System's Use of Technology and Other Remote Strategies

FRWDB has designed and implemented a service delivery system that reaches out to all communities across the county's more than 6,000 square miles. A combination of brick and mortar and virtual services make up our approach to reaching the widest possible range of jobs seekers, businesses, and system partners.

Remote Services Locations

To enhance accessibility to vital workforce development services, FRWDB will expand its reach by establishing satellite locations in underserved rural areas of Fresno County. These satellite offices will provide WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth program services to individuals in need of training, job assistance, and career development support.

Satellite locations will be strategically on both the west and east sides of Fresno County to address the unique needs of residents in these regions. Initially, satellite locations will be identified in the following rural communities.

- West Side: Coalinga
- East Side: Orange Cove

Satellite offices will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Days of operations will be determined as facilities are identified. These locations were selected to address the workforce gaps and transportation challenges faced by rural residents who may otherwise struggle to access services. By offering services in these communities, the FRWDB aims to:

1. Increase access to training and job placement opportunities for residents in rural areas.
2. Provide personalized career counseling and case management for adults, dislocated workers, and youth.
3. Strengthening partnerships with local businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations to support workforce development in these areas.

By bringing these essential services closer to residents in Coalinga, Kerman, Orange Cove, and Sanger, FRWDB reaffirms its commitment to accessibility, ensuring that all individuals in Fresno County have the tools and resources needed to succeed in the workforce.

Use of Technology to Enhance Service Delivery to Remote Locations

FRWDB has continued to expand virtual services. Orientation, eligibility, case management, workshops, and other traditional in-person services are available in virtual formats. Video-conferencing platforms are used to deliver services and connect staff to customers. Implementation of various paperless processes enable FRWDB to further enhance service accessibility via the web. The availability of online services provides greater options for some individuals living in rural communities.

As discussed throughout this Plan, even with the advancements described above, poor internet connections, lack of hardware, and insufficient digital skills limit access for many vulnerable individuals in both rural and urban communities. Bridging these gaps remains a priority for FRWDB.

D. Coordination of Workforce Activities and Support Services

Providing access to services that enable job seekers to participate and succeed in training, other workforce services, and employment is a priority for FRWDB and for other local workforce system stakeholders. Because participants' needs for such services can be extensive and resources are limited, FRWDB has worked diligently to develop options that make use of WIOA funds and utilize services from other fund sources.

Determining Participants' Needs for Support Services

After determining a participant's eligibility for WIOA services, AJCC staff schedules an in-person (or, possibly, virtual) meeting with the participant to develop an initial plan. This session includes an objective assessment interview. Staff engages in a discussion with the participant about specific needs and circumstances to identify appropriate services, a career pathway, suitable training, and needs for supportive services. Staff emphasizes that supportive services are provided to participants for the sole purpose of enabling their participation in WIOA-funded services, including training and employment.

Based on the individual assessment and availability of WIOA funds, supportive services may be made available to the participants. A plan is developed that indicates services to be provided and identifies the most likely source of funding for such services, whether it be WIOA, a one-stop partner program, or another community resource.

Services Available to Address Participants Needs and Barriers

FRWDB has adopted a policy under which WIOA supportive services are capped at \$2,000 per participant. Under certain circumstances, additional funds may be made available through an approved FRWDB wavier. WIOA-funded supportive services generally address needs such as assistance with childcare, clothing, housing, needs-related payments, tools, union fees, and transportation assistance, including bus passes, car repair, and mileage reimbursement.

As indicated, WIOA is just one (1) source of funding to meet participants' needs for support. Many other organizations and programs also provide various forms of supportive services. In some cases, individuals will need to be determined eligible for such services and/or be co-enrolled in partner programs to access support. For other programs, various forms of support are universally available and require neither documentation of eligibility nor enrollment. These programs include the following:

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program: Assistance with clothing, food, housing, tools, and union fees; transportation assistance, such as bus passes, car repair, and mileage; and housing assistance

California Indian Manpower Consortium: Assistance is similar to that available for participants in the Farmworker program, described above. Needs-related services payments are also available.

Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission: Available are programs to assist with the cost of utilities or to meet other needs, including:

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): LIHEAP offers financial assistance to help offset an eligible Fresno County household's home energy costs. LIHEAP can provide one payment per program year for electricity, gas, propane, wood, or oil for eligible households.

Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP): ECIP provides assistance to eligible households that are in a crisis situation. Examples include a household that has received a 24- to 48-hour disconnect notice or service termination by its utility company or a household facing an energy-related crisis or life-threatening emergency, including a combustible appliance.

Head Start: Head Start is a no cost preschool program primarily servicing low-income families. Children must be at least three (3) years old or turning three (3) by September 1 of the year in which they apply. Head Start provides comprehensive services including education; social, emotional, health, nutritional, and family support; and disability services to children and families.

Women Infants and Children (WIC): WIC is a federally funded supplemental health and nutrition program that provides healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and health and community referrals for pregnant women, new parents, and children (up to age five (5)). There are 13 service locations throughout Fresno County.

Fresno County Department of Social Services: DSS provides services to ensure individuals and families will be safe, self-sufficient, healthy, and free from distress at home, in school, or at work. Programs, services, and support include:

CalFresh: This program provides monthly benefits to help low-income households purchase the food they need.

CalWORKS/Welfare to Work: The Welfare to Work program provides employment-related services to CalWORKS clients to assist them in finding and retaining employment, obtaining training when necessary; and in upgrading to higher paying jobs that will lead to financial self-reliance. Supportive services are provided to assist with the costs of childcare, transportation, work clothing, and other items needed for employment. Referral services are also available to address barriers to successful employment such as substance abuse, domestic violence, legal, and mental health issues.

General Relief: This program provides cash or in-kind services to needy individuals and childless couples and is intended to assist with the cost of food, shelter, personal needs, and other living expenses.

Medi-Cal: California's public health insurance program is designed to provide no-cost or low-cost medical benefits to low-income individuals and families.

Department of Rehabilitation: DOR supports its customers by making available supportive services, including the following: assistance with clothing, tools, and union fees; transportation assistance, such as bus passes, car repair, and mileage; assistive technology; and other resources to enable persons with disabilities to participate in training and complete work-related tasks.

E. Physical and Programmatic Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities

FRWDB staff documents policies and procedures that incorporate the requirements of WIOA Section 188 and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Annual program reviews include an assessment of how those policies and procedures are implemented by sub-recipients. All outreach and marketing materials include required taglines for compliance with WIOA Section 188. Equal Opportunity (EO) and ADA information and procedures are available on the FRWDB and Workforce-Connection websites.

Facilities, Technology, and Services Supporting Accessibility

For Workforce Connection facilities, a physical site review for accessibility is performed at the time of initial layout and when improvements are made. Walk-throughs are randomly performed to ensure continued compliance. Program and physical accommodations are made to customers upon request.

AJCC workstations with assistive technology equipment for persons with disabilities, includes: a Teletypewriter (TTY) device; handsets with volume controls and hearing aid compatible features; large 22" monitors; and large print keyboards. In addition, staff utilizes, a wireless face-to-face communication device to assist deaf and hard of hearing individuals. UbiDuo is in place at the Comprehensive Workforce Connection Center. DOR will continue to conduct an accessibility assessment for all new sites.

Program and physical accommodations are made, upon request, including sign-language interpretation. FRWDB has increased accessibility of all FRWDB-sponsored websites.

Staff Training

FRWDB and AJCC staff have participated in various training sessions on serving individuals with disabilities. Examples of this instruction include:

- Training on Equal Opportunity/Americans with Disabilities Act
- Mental Health First Aid Training
- Mental Health and Depression under the ADA Training

III. STATE STRATEGIC PARTNER COORDINATION

In 2018, CWDB completed and published a biennial modification to California's Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan for Program Years 2016-2019. Within this modification, they identified four (4) new strategic partnerships with state-level agencies and initiatives. Guidance issued by CWDB in 2018 to local boards regarding two (2)-year modifications to their PY 2017-2020 Plans required that WDBs pursue these partnerships within their jurisdictions. FRWDB's 2019 Local Plan Modification and all subsequent versions described these local level relationships. State guidance published in 2024 added requirements for two (2) new partnerships. The following is a summary of FRWDB's coordination with six (6) state-mandated strategic partners.

A. Coordination with County Human Services Agency and Other Local Partners That Serve Individuals Accessing CalFresh Employment and Training Services

Fresno County DSS representatives are co-located at the West Shaw Workforce Connection center, and, for many years, they have successfully provided support to the WIOA staff to validate Welfare-to-Work, CalWORKs, and CalFresh recipients' eligibility for co-enrollment into the WIOA program. DSS and AJCC staff are continuously looking for ways to improve the coordination of referrals to avoid duplication of services and expedite co-enrollment for individuals enrolled in DSS programs and to ensure they are receiving appropriate assistance with job search activities, soft skills development, and work-based learning opportunities (e.g., on-the-job training, transitional jobs) that will pay wages as participants learn.

The FRWDB and its network of AJCCs have a long-standing partnership with the Fresno County DSS, which oversees CalWORKs and related public welfare programs, including the CalFresh Employment and Training (CFET) program. Both agencies regularly cross-refer clients in accordance with the procedures outlined in the partner MOU. Fresno County DSS contracts with a third-party provider to deliver CFET services. FRWDB and AJCC staff collaborate with the local CFET providers to coordinate access to WIOA workforce development services and facilitate referrals to CFET and other DSS programs, such as CalWORKs and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

DSS provider staff actively participate in monthly WIOA provider meetings, AJCC partner meetings, and quarterly WIOA Community Partner Alliance meetings at the AJCC.

B. Coordination with Local Child Support Agency and Other Local Partners That Serve Individuals Who Are Non-Custodial Parents

AJCC staff coordinate with Fresno County Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) on the co-enrollment of non-custodial parents (NRPs) who are in arrears on court ordered child support payments. NRPs are mandated to attend Workforce Connection orientations and to participate in the Centers' Self Reliance Team (SRT) process, where staff discuss workforce development and support resources that are available to them. Upon enrollment in services, NRP clients complete a Release of Information (ROI) form that enables AJCC staff to communicate to DCSS regarding clients' activities and participation status within AJCC programs, including those funded by WIOA Title I.

DCSS leadership is considering the adoption of the Unite Us referral platform for non-court-ordered NCPs seeking employment and training services from the Workforce Connection centers. During court appointments, court interviews, and other communications related to child support, DCSS representatives verbally recommend referrals to Workforce Connection locations. Following adoption of the Unite Us system, non-court-ordered NCPs will be able to self-refer to AJCC services. AJCC staff will then contact non-court-ordered NCPs directly upon Unite Us notice and begin orientation, SRT review, and enrollment processes.

Workforce Connection Operations Supervisors and Project Directors meet no less than quarterly with DCSS staff to provide technical support, feedback on enrolled clients with ROIs, confirmation of mandated NCPs listed on internal spreadsheets, and general information to support non-court-ordered NCPs. During these remote meetings, staff can expand on other requests, cross-refer resources, and set up on-going communication to support all parents, whether or not they are NCPs, in accessing services.

C. Coordination with Local Partnership Agreement Partners Established in Alignment with the Competitive Integrated Employment Blueprint and Other Local Partners That Serve Individuals with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

In 2018, the California Department of Education, DOR, and the California Department of Developmental Services developed the Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Blueprint to assist people with intellectual disabilities and development disabilities (ID/DD) prepare for and secure a job earning at least minimum wage working in the community with people without disabilities. The goals of the Blueprint are to:

- Help the three (3) state departments work together to better support people with ID/DD who want a CIE job.