



Chair: Myron Hughes **Chair-Elect:** DJ Gossett **Immediate Past Chair:** Natasha Chesnut
Co-Vice Chairs: Janelle Olds, Asha Parker, Timothy Thornton
Secretary: René McPhedran **Treasurer:** Andrew Crum **Executive Director:** Beth Yoke

1	Opening – Welcome Please sign in for the attendance record	Chair Myron Hughes	9:00
2	Mission Moment: new OMJ Center space retrofit	Myron	9:00 – 9:05
Action Items			
3	Adoption of Agenda with flexibility <i>pg 1</i>	Myron	9:05
4	Approval of Consent Items • 4-a Board Meeting Minutes 2.11.2026 <i>pgs 2-3</i> • 4-b Reports • Adult Services <i>pgs 4-12</i> • Youth Services <i>pgs 13-14</i> • Executive Director <i>pgs 15-17</i> • Committees <i>pgs 18-20</i> • OMJ Center Relocation <i>pgs 21-23</i> • Status of Job Center RFP Process <i>pgs 24-25</i>	Myron	9:05 – 9:10
Discussion Items			
5	Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland <i>pg 26</i>	Julianne Dunn, Regional Executive	9:10 – 9:25
6	Youth Engagement Project <i>pg 27</i>	Caitlin Martin & Linda Braun	9:25 – 9:40
7	Fiscal Agent Report <i>pg 28</i>	Yonas Asmerom	9:40 – 9:50
8	WCSO Finances 101 <i>pgs 29-36</i>	Shwetha Pai	9:50 – 10:00
9	Fiscal Agent Designation <i>pgs 37-41</i>	Beth Yoke	10:00 – 10:10
10	Federal Funding News <i>pgs 42-43</i>	Beth	10:10 – 10:20
11	Take Action Moment <i>pgs 44-45</i>	Janelle Olds	10:20 – 10:30
12	Adjournment (Action)	Myron	10:30

Information only

Upcoming Leadership Activities

- Executive Committee Meeting: June 10
- Board of Directors' Meeting: August 12

Board Member Engagement Opportunities

- We're looking for Board Members to spotlight on social media and in our eNews! If you're interested, please contact Libby Scott at lscott@cincyworkforce.org
- If your organization has an announcement or news item of interest to Workforce Council stakeholders, send it to Libby Scott for inclusion in an upcoming eNews: lscott@cincyworkforce.org

Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 10 AM

Board of Directors Present: Hope Arthur (online), Paula Brehm-Heeger, Renee Dean, Chris Fridel, Shanel Gentry, Brian Griffin, Jesse Grissom, Susan Hakel, Myron Hughes, Elizabeth Kerr, Janelle Olds, Asha Parker (online), Jesse Simmons (online), Uma Sivaprasad, Nathan Strange (online), Stephanie Summerow Dumas, John Thomas (online), Timothy Thornton, Jordan Vogel, Amy Waldbillig, Bryan Wright (online), Mike Yeazell, Beth Yoke

Board of Directors Sending Regrets: Michael Beck, Heath Boucher, Natasha Chesnut, Andrew Crum, Mark Dierig, Catherine Fitzgerald, Dejuan Gossett, Rodney Hardin, Jason Harvey, Rene McPhedran, Shwetha Pai, Jennifer Roeder, Diana Small, Carol Sorenson-Williams, Michael Turner

Guests: Yonas Asmerom, Marion Byndon, Derek Chancellor (online), Tim Dinger, Jay Eckley, Jackson Fort, Emily Graeter, Jon Jensen (online), Donna Lauver (online), Mark Lawson, Daniel Love, Pam Massey, Tyler Meenach, Mveni Nziohi, Lynne Riehle, Monika Royal-Fischer, Libby Scott, Amy Thompson, Audrey Treasure, Thanapat Vichichot, Amanda Wagner, Allie Wiencek

I. Opening – Welcome and Introductions

With a quorum present at 8:30 AM, M. Hughes welcomed board members, staff, and guests to the Workforce Council's Board of Directors quarterly meeting.

II. Mission Moment

M. Hughes highlighted She Builds Day as one of the many ways our organization is working to fulfill its mission.

III. Adoption of Agenda with flexibility (*Action*)

M. Hughes asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. B. Griffin moved to accept the agenda; J. Grissom seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors.

IV. Approval of Consent Items (*Action*)

M. Hughes asked for any additions or changes to the consent agenda. Motion to approve the Consent Items was made by B. Griffin and seconded by B. Wright; the motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors.

Discussion Items**V. Community Action Agency (*Discussion*)**

CAA's CEO, Mark Lawson, shared an overview of the CAA's mission and priorities.

VI. OMJ Center Facility Lease & Relocation

B. Yoke shared an update on the status of the lease development with the Community Action Agency and on relocation planning.

VII. Federal Funding Status

B. Yoke shared that there has not been any developments in regards to reauthorizing WIOA, due to the federal government shutdown, and that it would not be likely for Congress to take up WIOA or any workforce bill before the new year. She thanked Board Members in advance for participating in upcoming advocacy efforts.

VIII. Board Culture

IX. News & Announcements

X. Adjournment

At 9:56 AM a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting was made by XXXXXX and seconded by B. Griffin. No further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,

René McPhedran
Secretary

Operator Report

Program Year 2025 (7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026) | Reporting Dates: 7/1/2025 – 3/31/2026

Success Story: Harrison Community Job Fair: A Six-Year Success

Six years ago, the Harrison Chamber of Commerce identified a significant workforce challenge: job seekers and employers in the westernmost part of Hamilton County lacked convenient access to employment opportunities. Distance and transportation barriers made it difficult for many Harrison residents to attend job fairs held in other parts of the county, limiting their ability to connect with employers.

To address this gap, the Chamber partnered with OhioMeansJobs Cincinnati-Hamilton County to design and launch a job fair tailored specifically to the Harrison community. OMJ played a key role in getting the event off the ground – supporting planning efforts, coordinating logistics, and recruiting employers who were eager to engage with local talent.

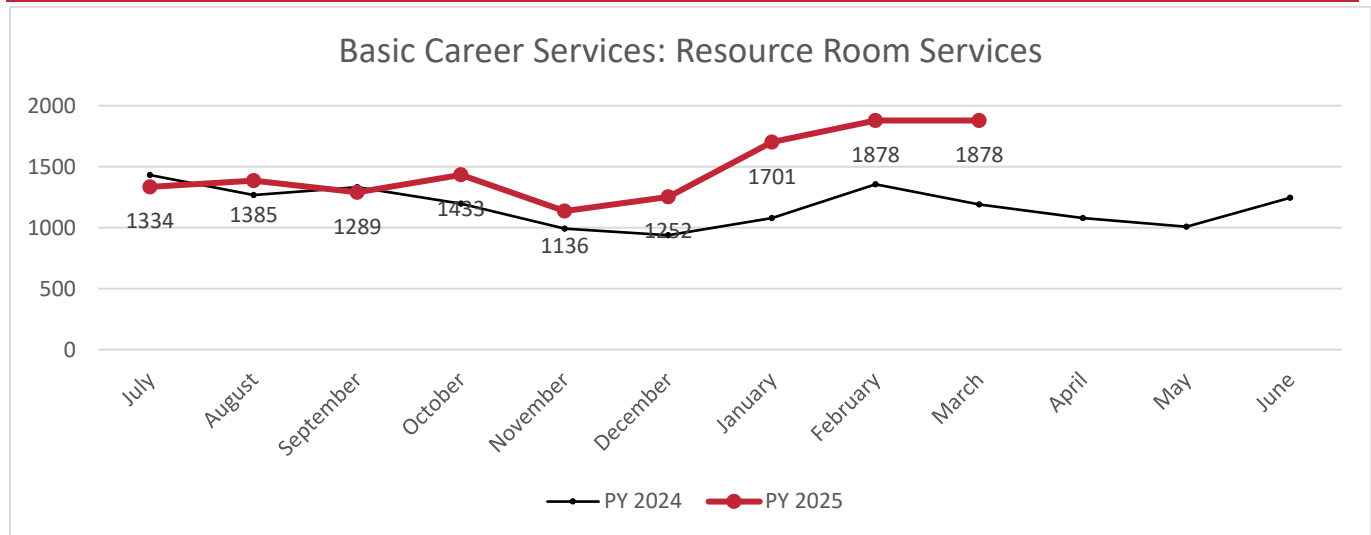
The results have been consistently strong. What began as a pilot outreach effort has grown into an annual, high-impact event that continues to strengthen Harrison’s local workforce pipeline. This year’s fair brought together 30 employers and 125 job seekers, creating meaningful connections for residents who may not have otherwise had access to these opportunities. This annual event demonstrates how targeted collaboration can build long-term community capacity while delivering measurable workforce outcomes.



Operator Report

Program Year 2025 (7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026) | Reporting Dates: 7/1/2025 – 3/31/2026

Resource Room Services



Basic Service	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Self-Services	5285	5256	7802	0	18343
Staff-Assisted Services	1277	1435	2345	0	5057

*Self-services are services selected by the customer at the kiosk. Staff-assisted services are services entered by staff/partners when providing services to customers as reportable individuals.

Resource Room Satisfaction	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Courtesy/Professionalism	4.81	4.65	4.69		4.72
Responsiveness/Timeliness	4.71	4.71	4.63		4.69
The service(s) met my expectations	4.65	4.53	4.44		4.55
Cleanliness of Facility	4.9	4.53	4.56		4.69
Overall Satisfaction	4.65	4.71	4.5		4.62
Recommend OMJ to friend or family	4.62	4.82	4.63		4.69

Workshop Satisfaction	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Overall Workshop	4.78	4.8	4.74		4.77
Relevant Topic	4.62	4.59	4.7		4.64
Presenter's Knowledge	4.81	4.78	4.82		4.8
Met Expectations	4.54	4.5	4.53		4.53
Recommend OMJ Workshops to friend or family	4.68	4.7	4.75		4.71

Operator Report

Program Year 2025 (7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026) | Reporting Dates: 7/1/2025 – 3/31/2026

WIOA Career Services

WIOA Enrollments

Service	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Enrollments	11	7	22		40
Receiving Services	285	210	217		292

WIOA Enrollment Demographics

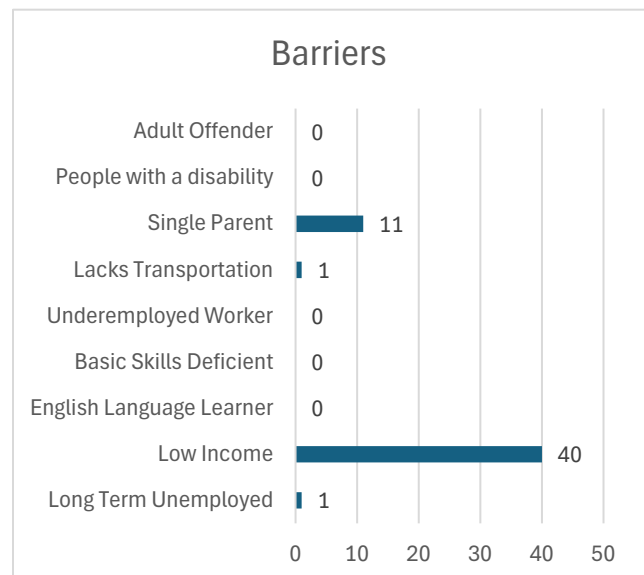
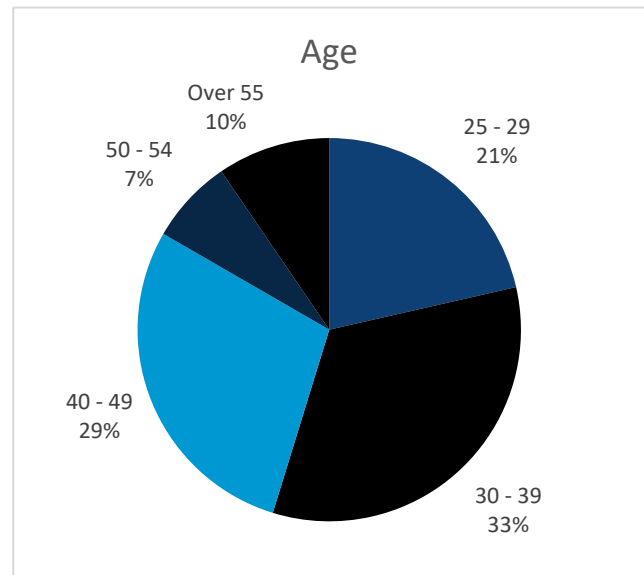
Age	Count	% of enrollments
25 – 29	9	21.43%
Age 30 – 39	14	33.33%
Age 40 – 49	12	28.57%
Age 50 – 54	3	7.14%
Age 55+	4	9.52%

Gender	Count	% of enrollments
Women	20	47.62%
Men	22	52.38%

Race	Count	% of enrollments
Black / African American	35	83.33%
White	3	7.14%
All Other Races	4	9.52%

Barriers	Count	% of enrollments
Long Term Unemployed	1	3%
Low Income	40	100%
English Language Learner	0	0%
Basic Skills Deficient	0	0%
Underemployed Worker	0	0%
Lacks Transportation	1	3%
Single Parent	11	28%
People with a disability	0	0%
Adult Offender	0	0%

** Participants who have more than one barrier are counted once in each barrier row.

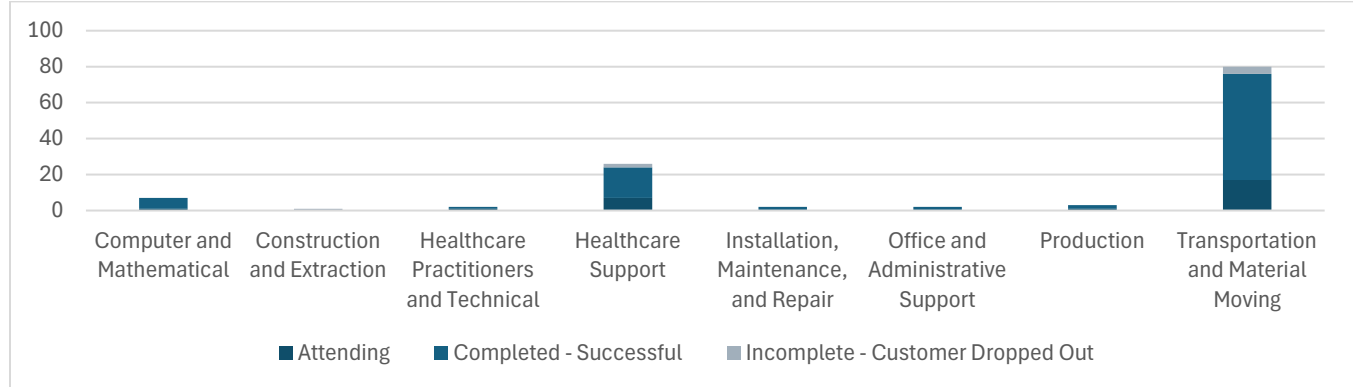


Operator Report

Program Year 2025 (7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026) | Reporting Dates: 7/1/2025 – 3/31/2026

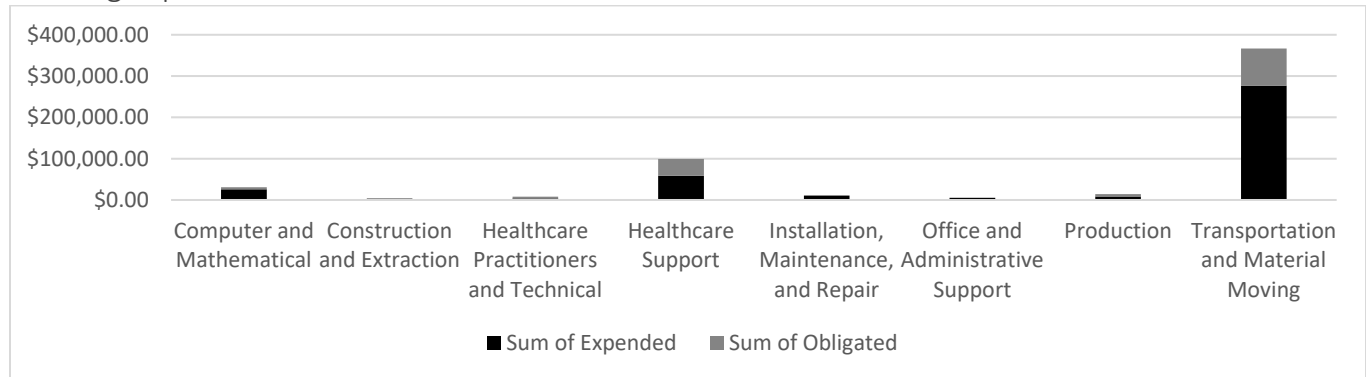
WIOA Training

Training Services



Industry	Attending	Successful	Incomplete	YTD
Computer and Mathematical	1	3	2	6
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	1	0	0	1
Healthcare Support	7	11	3	21
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	1	1	0	1
Production	1	2	0	3
Transportation and Material Moving	17	27	10	54
Total	27	44	15	86

Training Expenses



	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Obligated	\$15,800.85	\$12,440.30	\$85,481.30	\$32,005.65	\$145,728.10
Expended	\$327,767.55	\$45,595.85	\$19,775.85	\$0.00	\$393,139.25

Operator Report

Program Year 2025 (7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026) | Reporting Dates: 7/1/2025 – 3/31/2026

Eligible Training Providers

Thirty-three training providers were approved for contract year 10/1/2025 – 9/30/2026. All but one contract has been finalized.

- 17 returning providers
- 16 new providers

Returning Providers

- ADAPT Academy of Dental Assisting and Professional Training
- Amicus II, Inc
- Breakthrough Performance Group
- C. Renee Consulting, LLC
- EDI Matrix (dba Career Matrix)
- Elite Welding Academy
- Galen College of Nursing
- Gener8tor
- Great Oaks Career Campuses
- Kable Academy Learning, LLC
- Making a Change Cincy
- MAX Technical Training
- Mercy Neighborhood Ministries
- Napier Truck Driver Training
- ONLC Training Centers
- Per Scholas
- RWB Properties & Construction

New Providers

- A Nurse Around the Corner (ANAC) Training Center
- Balizza Healthcare Solutions
- Beckfield College dba Larock Healthcare Academy
- Butler Tech
- Destiny Beauty Academy
- General Assembly
- Guardian Labs Phlebotomy School
- JobWorks Education & Training
- LaDarius Enterprise LLC
- MedCerts Partner Solutions
- Relate
- Ross Education Holdings Inc
- Standard School of Nursing and Allied Health*
(Contract not finalized, waiting on provider)
- Tech Elevator
- Trainings-4U
- XA Talent

Not Approved this Year

Eleven previous providers were not approved this year.

- 160 Driving Academy
- Caring with Dignity
- Direct Venture
- Fast Track Training Center LLC
- Flamingo Air/Arlene Ground Schools
- Health Care Access Now
- Imagine Training Hub
- Nurturing Minds Training Center
- Southern Ohio Technical Institute
- The Computer Workshop
- Union Centre Institute

Operator Report

Program Year 2025 (7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026) | Reporting Dates: 7/1/2025 – 3/31/2026

WIOA Program Closures

Category	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Program Closures	51	5	2		53
Credentials Earned	36	2	2		46
Employments Entered	14	2	2		16
Highest Annualized Wage	\$62,694.00	\$51,600.00	\$56,000.00		\$62,694.00
Average Annualized Wage	\$40,111.63	\$48,504.00	\$50,704.00		\$42,221.04
Lowest Annualized Wage	\$23,736.00	\$45,408.00	\$45,408.00		\$23,736.00

Quarter 1: Highest Annualized Wage participant is working as a truck driver at Hilltop Basic Resources.

Quarter 2: Highest Annualized Wage participant is working as a truck driver at Tristate Healthcare Laundry.

Quarter 3: Highest Annualized Wage participant is working in maintenance at Buckeye Forest at Madeira.

WIOA Performance Measures (Program Year 2024, Unadjusted Annual Performance)

Includes Unadjusted PY 2024

Group Performance Measure	PY 2022	PY 2023	PY 2024	PY 2025 Q1	PY 2025 Q2
Adult Employment 2nd Quarter after Exit	75.40%	80.20%	83.3%	72.6%	71.3%
Adult Employment 4th Quarter after Exit	80.60%	88.90%	80.7%	82.1%	81.3%
Adult Median Earnings 2nd Quarter after Exit	\$7,608.00	\$7,869.00	\$8,146.00	\$6,997	\$8,965
Adult Credential Attainment	75.20%	79.20%	85.9%	80.6%	85.4%
Adult Measurable Skill Gains	55.60%	80.20%	81.6%	54.8%	58.8%

Group Performance Measure	PY 2022	PY 2023	PY 2024	PY 2025 Q1	PY 2025 Q2
Dislocated Worker Employment 2nd Quarter after Exit	64.60%	81.30%	80%	100%	100%
Dislocated Worker Employment 4th Quarter after Exit	75.00%	79.30%	80%	50%	60%
Dislocated Worker Median Earnings 2nd Quarter after Exit	\$9,691.00	\$12,164.00	\$10,937.00	\$11,112	\$11,559
Dislocated Worker Credential Attainment	69.40%	78.30%	80%	100%	100%
Dislocated Worker Measurable Skill Gains	60.00%	57.90%	93.3%	N/A	100%

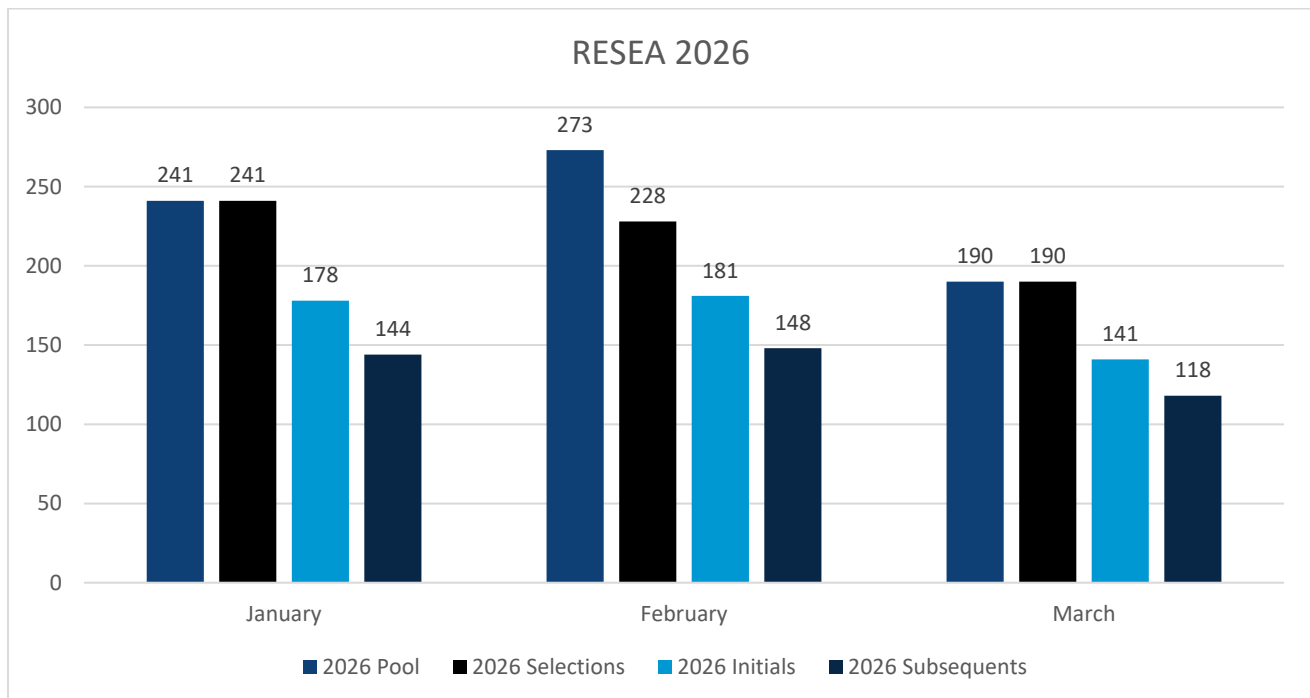
Operator Report

Program Year 2025 (7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026) | Reporting Dates: 7/1/2025 – 3/31/2026

RESEA

The Re-employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program is a federal grant program designed to allow states to provide intensive re-employment assistance to individuals who are receiving unemployment benefits and are determined likely to exhaust their benefits before becoming re-employed. Participants complete a series of tasks and services:

- 1) View an online introduction video that explains the program,
- 2) Completes an unemployment eligible review,
- 3) Attend a meeting (in person or by phone to discuss individual re-employment needs and learn about re-employment services, resources, and training (if needed), available through an OhioMeansJobs center,
- 4) Receive customized personal labor market and career information, including information about in-demand occupations,
- 5) Receive a personalized Individualized Opportunity Plan that identifies re-employment goals and the combination of services needed to research these goals, and
- 6) Receive a follow-up phone call to discuss progress made in reaching individual re-employment goals.



Overall in 2026, 91% selection rate. 100% of pooled customers were selected in January 2026. 83.52% of pooled customers were selected in February 2026. 100% of pooled customers were selected in March 2026.

Operator Report

Program Year 2025 (7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026) | Reporting Dates: 7/1/2025 – 3/31/2026

Business Services

Business Outreach / Contacts

Category	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
<i>Unique Businesses Served</i>	494	191	160		828
<i>Total Services Provided</i>	2073	627	972		3503
<i>Participated in a Career Fair or Hiring Event</i>	61	37	36		93
<i>Rapid Response Services</i>	12	5	7		21

Event Employer Feedback

On a 5-point scale (5 being the highest rating), the average rating for the Employer Feedback during career fairs:

Category	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
<i>Event Registration</i>	4.92	4.82	4.82		4.86
<i>Facility & Parking</i>	4.87	4.91	4.84		4.87
<i>Cleanliness of Facility</i>	4.93	4.93	4.93		4.93
<i>Quantity of Job Seekers</i>	4.35	4.22	4.31		4.3
<i>Quality of Job Seekers</i>	4.25	4	4.18		4.16
<i>Professionalism of Staff</i>	4.98	4.98	4.97		4.98
<i>Overall Experience</i>	4.8	4.69	4.75		4.75

Rapid Response

Companies Served

- American Signature, Inc
- BR Printers
- Claire's Boutiques, Inc
- Crown
- Drake Center, Inc.
- Dystar Hilton Davis Corp
- Easterseals Redwood
- Eastern Personnel
- Family Dollar Store
- Fellers, LLC
- First Student
- FTI Buyer, LLC
- INEOS ABS (USA CORP)
- Kroger Co
- Main Street
- NSG, INC
- Quality Built, LLC
- The Procter & Gamble Company
- Zenith Logistics Inc

Operator Report

Program Year 2025 (7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026) | Reporting Dates: 7/1/2025 – 3/31/2026

WARN Notices

Program Year 2024 (7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>Layoff Date(s)</i>	<i>Number Laid Off</i>
7/7/2025	Quality Built, LLC	7/3/2025	1
7/23/2025	INEOS ABS USA, LLC	8/1/2025 – 3/30/2026	82
5/30/2025			
8/15/2025-8/18/2025	First Student	8/20/2025	39
8/27/2025	Fellers, LLC	10/24/2025	1
9/19/2025	Daniel Drake Center for Post Acute Care	10/3/2025 & 2026	474
5/29/2025			
1/8/2026	FTI Buyer LLC BIDFTA online auctions	3/6/2026	104
2/23/2026	Main Street Sports Group Cincinnati	4/14/2026	8
3/19/2026	Zenith Logistics Inc	4/15/2026 – 7/1/2026	225

Upcoming Events

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
MONTHLY CAREER FAIR	April 15, 2026 2pm – 4pm	OhioMeansJobs Cincinnati-Hamilton County
EMPLOYER WORKSHOP: SECOND CHANCE HIRING IN DEMAND JOBS WEEK CAREER FAIR	April 22, 2026 10am – 2pm	OhioMeansJobs Cincinnati-Hamilton County
HAMILTON COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS DAY	May 7, 2026 2pm – 4pm	Deer Park Branch Library
	May 18, 2026 All Day	Sharonville Convention Center
MONTHLY CAREER FAIR	June 17, 2026 2pm – 4pm	TBD

CCMEP TANF Youth Report May 2026*

Enrollments: CCMEP TANF customers, ages 14-24

- Active Enrollment is **633*** among the four Collaborative organizations: Talbert House, Community Action Agency, Urban League and Easterseals.
(As reported by the collaborative organizations because the ARIES enrollment report is unreliable)

Barrier Removal/Client Assistance: This includes such wraparound services as attire, background checks, birth certificates, proof of citizenship, car repair, childcare and related services, driver's ed, education, household items, photo ids, rent or temporary shelter, utilities, and groceries.

- Amount: **\$29,686***
- Customers Served: **193***

MOU Expenses: This includes supportive services offered through community partners via a memorandum of understanding with Cincinnati Public Schools, Legal Aid, Mercy Neighborhood Services and Valiant.

- Amount: **\$2,323***
- Customers Served: **23***

Incentives: Incentives are being issued for earning a diploma or GED, post-secondary/voc. Ed/Occupation Skills certification, improved grades, promotion to the next grade level, job retention, earning of Work Keys and other related milestones.

- Amount: **\$250,840***
- Customers Served: **957***

Employment Data: Top 3 Employment Industries are Retail, Food Service, Health/Home Care.

- Number of jobs obtained: **334***
- Avg Number of Hours per week: **22.91***
- Hourly Rate: **\$15.48***

CCMEP Transportation*

Transportation	Amount	# Customers
Gas Cards	\$64,470	1,372
HamCo Local 30-day	\$17,424	199
Full Day (Daily) Bus Pass	\$4,758	221
Metro/TANK Bus Pass	\$105	1
UBER	\$0	0
Access Pass	\$13.20	1
Parking Validation	\$104	13

*Through March 31,2026

CCMEP Youth PY25 UNADJUSTED Quarter 2 Report**

**effective 2/28/2026 ^Success

Performance Measure	Rate	Success Level (Goal)
Education, Training, or Employment 2 nd QTR after Exit	69.9%^	67.5%
Education, Training, or Employment 4 th QTR after Exit	75.5%^	65.7%
Credential Attainment	74.8%^	46.8%
Median Earnings 2 nd QTR after Exit	\$4,483^	\$3,150
Measurable Skill Gains	4.2%	45.0%

Spending

Contract Amount: \$4,944,000

Spending: \$3,177,099 (7/1/25 thru 3/31/2026)

May 2026

Enrollments*

- Hamilton County WIOA youth providers enrollment number is 297 participants, which is 91% of the 325-contract enrollment goal. CYC enrollment is 203, UL enrollment is 94.
- 31.6% of the total enrolled are Out-of-School youth.
- 67.5% of the total WIOA youth are also CCMEP TANF enrolled.

Mandated Spending*

- Area 13's mandate is to spend 75% of WIOA funds on Out-of-School services.
 - **Area 13 has spent 22% of WIOA funds on Out-of-School (July 25 to March 26).**
- Area 13 is required to spend 20% of total WIOA youth funds on Work Experience.
 - **Area 13 has spent 46.79% if total WIOA youth funds on Work Experience (July 25 to March 26).**

Program Year 2025 UNADJUSTED Quarter Two Adjusted Weekly Report 02/28/2026

^Success

Performance Measure	Area Rate	Success Level (Goal)
Employment 2 nd Qtr after Exit	70.4%^	67.5%
Employment 4th Qtr after Exit	84.1%^	65.7%
Median Earnings	\$4,257^	\$3,150
Credential Attainment	91.7%^	46.8%
Measurable Skill Gains	1.1%	45.0%

Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio
Board of Directors Meeting
May 13, 2026

Topic: **Executive Director's Report**

Background: Beth Yoke has provided a monthly update of the latest activities from her and her team as well as the organization's key accomplishments.

Action Required: **Consent**

Mission Moment

In March Myron Hughes and I met with the Community Action Agency's Board of Directors to share information about WCSO and to reinforce the message that we are open to collaborations that align with each of our missions. There was general agreement that once the job center has relocated to the CAA there will be opportunities to partner on projects that support the community.

Gratitude

Thanks to the Job Center RFP Review Committee for reviewing the submissions, scoring them, and making a recommendation to the Executive Committee. This is important, but time-consuming work. Committee Members included: Pam Massey, Nathan Strange, John Thomas, Ross Turpeau, Thanapat Vichichot, and Mike Yeazell

Selected Highlights since February

Grant proposals submitted in 2026

Funder	Focus	Amount	Status
Cincinnati Wine Festival Beneficiary	Funds for OMJ customer emergency needs	\$10,000	Submitted
Citizens Charitable Foundation	Mobile tech for job seeker outreach	\$11,000	Submitted
Millstone Fund	Moving career explorer AI agent from prototype to launch	\$50,000	Unsuccessful
RESTART	Workforce training and support for justice involved young adults	\$1M	Submitted
Spirit of Construction Foundation	Connections to mentors for youth exploring construction careers	\$10,000	Unsuccessful

Grant-funded Project Updates

Behavioral Health School to Work Program – Ends 6/30/26

In April, the program completed Mental Health First Aid training for 42 students from Deer Park High School, Winton Woods High School, and Reading High School. Students also participated in Magnified Giving, where they researched community needs, interviewed agencies, and selected nonprofit grant recipients. This effort is funded by the Ohio Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services

Career Navigator – Ends 9/30/26

April efforts focused on expanding workforce opportunities through career navigation, post-graduation support, and employment-readiness services. Activities included preparing students for summer construction training opportunities, supporting graduates with career and education planning, and engaging students at the Future Ready Fair at Princeton High School. This effort is funded by the Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services.

Building the Workforce Ecosystem 10/31/26

- **Workforce Innovation Center**

The Workforce Innovation Center provided employer tours, workforce mapping efforts, fair chance hiring initiatives, and regional partner engagement activities across Greater Cincinnati.

- **Supply Chain OKI**

Students from Dater High School participated in a Supply Chain Bootcamp at Northern Kentucky University and engaged with industry professionals through expert panel discussions at Dater and Woodward High School focused on career pathways, teamwork, leadership, and workforce success.

This effort is funded by the county through ARPA dollars.

Advocacy & Outreach

Cincinnati Regional Chamber Statehouse Advocacy Day

Business Engagement Committee Chair Jesse Grissom and WCSO staff member Elaine Fay attended the Cincinnati Regional Chamber's Statehouse Advocacy Day, engaging in conversations with state leaders on workforce, education, and economic policy issues impacting employers and workers across our region.

Cincinnati Economic & Cultural Opportunity Committee Presentation

Elaine Fay and I presented to the Cincinnati City Council Economic & Cultural Opportunity Committee, sharing an overview of WCSO's role, workforce priorities, and alignment with the City's workforce and economic goals. The discussion identified opportunities to engage with City Council's Youth Committee and reinforced the value of coordinating workforce and education strategies for long-term regional growth.

West End Community Resource Fair

In March WCSO hosted a West End Resource Fair in partnership with the OMJ Center and the Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library. Approximately 60 attendees participated and spoke with representatives from about two dozen community organizations, including the Legal Aid Society, CinFed, and the Urban League. Participants who completed a survey for WCSO received a Kroger gift card and a METRO pass. This effort was funded by a grant from the FC Cincinnati Foundation.

Construction Workforce Panel Discussion on May 29

On May 29, the WCSO will convene Southwest Ohio policymakers and workforce leaders for a panel discussion focused on strengthening the construction workforce. The event will highlight recommendations from WCSO's recent report, *Supporting & Building the Construction Workforce in Cincinnati and Hamilton County*, and feature local construction leaders and practitioners. Attendees will gain insight into strategies that are working well locally to recruit, train, and retain the next generation of skilled workers, and how public policy can best enhance this work.

Marketing & Communications

We have created business cards with a QR code that links to our Impact Reports. They have space to include your contact information. Please share them widely!

Earned media: Beth Yoke spoke with WCPO on April 16 about the impact of AI on the job market

Paid media: A profile of Board Chair Myron Hughes appeared in the May 5 nonprofit issue of the *Business Courier*

Newsletter stats:

- Open rate: **40%**
- Click rate: **9%**
- **1,316** subscribers

LinkedIn stats (last 30 days):

- Total now **798** followers, increase of **22** followers in last 30 days
- **1,653** Impressions, **65** Reactions, **2** comments, **7** reposts

Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio
Board of Directors Meeting
May 13, 2026

Topic: **Select Committee Updates**

Background: WCSO has multiple Committees working to assist with advancing the mission of the organization. Jesse Grissom, Chair of the Business Engagement Committee, Brian Griffin, Chair of the Education & Training Committee (formerly the ETP Committee), and Renee Dean, Chair of the Outreach & Engagement Committee, have provided updates below.

Action Required: **Consent**

Business Engagement Committee

The Business Engagement Committee met on April 15, 2026, to reaffirm its purpose and align subcommittee efforts with Workforce Council priorities, with a continued focus on employer engagement, youth work-based learning, workforce training needs, and advocacy initiatives.

The five subcommittees provided updates, including findings from the Construction Workforce Survey, which highlighted skilled trade shortages, barriers to workforce entry, and the need for stronger alignment between employers and training providers. Additional discussions focused on expanding youth work-based learning partnerships, improving employer coordination, identifying workforce training gaps through employer survey data, and advancing advocacy efforts related to transportation, licensing barriers for youth, and gender equity in the trades.

The Committee also discussed the importance of clearly defining each committee's focus areas while recognizing opportunities for collaboration and avoiding duplication of efforts. One example is the ongoing partnership with the Education & Training Committee, which is actively developing a training provider resource map.

Subcommittees continue to meet and advance work between the regularly scheduled quarterly meetings. Moving forward, the Committee intends to maintain a strong emphasis on actionable strategies and measurable outcomes that create tangible impact for employers, job seekers, and workforce partners.

Elaine continues to be a valuable resource in coordinating our efforts.

Education & Training Committee Advances Workforce System Strategy

The Education & Training Committee is building momentum and evolving into a more strategic, system-focused body that better connects training, workforce development, and real job opportunities across the region. At its April meeting, the Committee focused on advancing key initiatives to strengthen how individuals access training and move into high-demand careers.

A major focus of the meeting was the continued development of a comprehensive regional resource mapping tool to catalog training programs across five priority industries: advanced manufacturing, construction and trades, healthcare, information technology, and transportation and logistics. The Committee recommended expanding the scope of this tool to include a broader range of providers, from technical schools and hospital-based programs to independent training providers, while emphasizing the importance of clear, accessible information on program costs, prerequisites, and outcomes.

The Committee also advanced its work in training provider oversight and data strategy, identifying the need for stronger, more consistent performance measures and improved reporting tools to better understand program effectiveness, including completion rates and job placement outcomes. Members discussed the importance of moving beyond basic metrics toward more meaningful indicators, such as in-field employment and long-term career success.

In addition, the Committee engaged in a robust discussion of system gaps and barriers impacting workforce participation, including transportation, childcare, housing, and access to information. These conversations are helping shape a clearer understanding of where the system needs improvement and where the Committee can help drive solutions, including better coordination at job centers and stronger “warm handoffs” to ensure individuals are connected to the right opportunities.

Looking ahead, the Committee is focused on turning these discussions into action, including refining the resource mapping tool, strengthening provider evaluation processes, and advancing regional coordination strategies to better align workforce supply with employer demand. These efforts reflect a growing commitment to building a more connected, responsive, and effective workforce system that supports both workers and employers across the region.

Outreach & Engagement Committee

Outreach & Engagement Committee Update – April 15, 2026

Board Recruitment for 2027 was discussed. Pam Massey presented an updated roster of members whose terms continue into 2027. The document will be revised to also show members whose 2-year terms end on 12/31/26 but who have not yet reached the 6-year limit.

The following are some of the gaps in the members for 2027:

WIOA-Required Representation

- State employment representative (e.g., Wagner-Peyser)
- Title I Rehabilitation representative (e.g., Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities)
- Industry Representation Gaps
- Supply chain
- Information Technology

Committee members will review the recruitment document and add candidate ideas for the next meeting.

Board Networking & Engagement

The committee discussed strategies to increase participation and make networking more purposeful. Some ideas to boost attendance at networking events included:

- Feature a high-interest host or speaker
- Include an activity (e.g., makerspace project)
- Ideas to activate pre-meeting breakfast time
- Provide discussion prompts tied to meeting topics
- Hold a “must be present to win” raffle
- Light-engagement activities (People Bingo, talk-to-three-people challenge, best poker hand)

Beth adjusted Board meeting start times to 8:30 AM based on survey feedback.

Cincinnati State Event – 4/23/26

A special thank you to Amy Waldbillig, Kelly Harper, and Cincinnati State for hosting our 1st Networking and Engagement Event for 2026. We had a nice turnout and learned all about the career services offered at Cincinnati State. Be on the lookout for our next event coming soon.

Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio
Board of Directors Meeting
February 11, 2026

Topic: **OhioMeansJobs Center Facility Relocation**

Background: Since the Executive Committee's decision in September 2025 to relocate the OMJ Center, WCSO staff have been working on the necessary steps to carry out the move from the 1916 Central Parkway location to the Community Action Agency (CAA) on 1740 Langdon Farm Rd. Beth has provided an update below.

Action Required: Consent

- Communication
 - Tours took place Feb. 10 and Feb. 17 for all OMJ Center staff and partner staff. Participants had the opportunity to give feedback about the redesign of the 2nd floor space. About 25 individuals participated.
 - I am staying in contact with OMJ Center partners, including communication about the MOU for OMJ Center partners for 2026 – 2028. It can't be developed until we have completed the RFP process for an OMJ Center operator; however, Pam Massey has put together a draft budget and shared that with partners.
 - I'm in communication with the state and county IT departments to plan for relocation and/or purchase of needed IT equipment.
 - We have reached out to a local sign company to install signs at the current location announcing our move.
- Expenses
 - Estimated expenses for the relocation, which includes retrofitting the 2nd floor space, are \$300,000 at the low end and \$500,000 at the high end.
 - In Sept. I applied for \$300,000 in ODJFS Special Project funds to defray relocation costs. We learned last month that the request has been approved.
 - In Nov. I applied for capital improvements funds from Fifth Third Bank and learned last month that the application was unsuccessful.
 - We were able to repurpose about \$50,000 - \$80,000 in OMJ Center operational funds for the relocation effort. I provided an updated budget to the Fiscal Agent.
- Site preparation

-
- We have engaged 4K Architecture to redesign the floorplan for the second floor space to accommodate the Resource Room, meeting space, and associated staff workspace.
 - Demolition work was completed on May 1st for the second floor retrofit. The estimated completion date for the 2nd floor is August or Sept.
 - The 3rd floor is awaiting IT installations, and after that it will be move-in ready.
 - **Leases**
 - The lease agreement with the CAA has been fully executed.
 - I am working with the county to amend the lease to allow the job center to stay at 1916 Central Parkway through September.

Relocation Budget Estimates (based on ~10,000 sq. ft. for ~60 individuals)

Since executing a move was not an anticipated expense for this fiscal year, we are working to identify funds. The following has been achieved so far:

- Submitted a request to the Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services in Sept. for Special Projects funds (\$300,000)
- Reallocated \$87,000 from other parts of the budget for relocation expenses
- Submitted a grant application on Nov. 17 for capital improvement funds from Fifth Third Bank
- Seeking opportunities for pro-bono or discounted work
- Beth is working with the Finance Committee to determine the best funding sources to cover the remainder of the moving expenses, including WCSO's savings (~ \$620K) and CD (~ \$211K)
- A possible funding source could be a capital campaign

Category	Estimated Cost Range	Notes
Moving company	\$20,000	Includes packing, transport, setup
IT relocation & setup	\$30,000	Cabling, networking, telecom, servers, security systems
Space retrofitting	\$150,000	Build-out, paint, flooring, electrical, ADA compliance
Furniture (new + reused)	\$100,000	~\$1,500–\$3,000 per employee if new
Design/architecture fees	\$20,000	Space planning, compliance, drawings
Signage & branding	\$10,000	Entry signage, wayfinding
Rent (prorated)	\$57,000	Unexpected costs when FY26 budget was prepared
TOTAL	\$387,000	Depending on retrofit needs & furniture reuse

Timeline Snapshot

- Jan.: Lease signed, planning, vendors secured
- Jan. – Feb.: Design/build-out, IT planning, furniture ordered
- Mar. – Apr.: Install furniture & IT, communications rollout
- May: Physical move, cutover, decommission old site
- June (2 weeks): Troubleshooting, project close

Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio
Board of Directors Meeting
May 13, 2026

Topic: **Status of Job Center Operator RFP Process**

Background: An RFP for OhioMeansJobs Center operations, as required every 4 years by WIOA, was issued January 6. Four organizations submitted a proposal: Equus Workforce Solutions, Grant Associates, Inc., Hamilton County Job & Family Services, and Harbor. All applications were due Feb. 5, and a short-term committee was assembled to review the applications and made a recommendation to the Executive Committee for their April 8 meeting. Committee members included: Pam Massey, Nathan Strange, Ross Turpeau, Thanapat Vichitchot, John Thomas, Mike Yeazell, and Beth Yoke. Beth Yoke has provided an update on the process below.

Action Required: **Consent**

Updates on the process

- At their April meeting, the Executive Committee accepted the recommendation of the Job Center RFP Review Committee and directed Beth Yoke to enter into contract negotiations with the successful bidder, Grant Associates, Inc.
- Contract negotiations with Grant Associates, Inc. were conducted last month.
- Beth is working with ProBono Partnership Ohio to develop the contract, so that a draft can be shared with Grant Associates and the mayor's office the week of May 11.
- Beth has a meeting with the mayor on May 19th to discuss the contract terms. As the Chief Lead Executive Official for Area 13, the mayor's signature is required on the contract.
- The goal is to have the contract signed by the end of May, at which time WCSO can make an official announcement about the Job Center operator. Barring any unforeseen issues during contract finalization, Grant Associates, Inc. is anticipated to become the next One-Stop Operator.
- The WCSO team is working with the current and in-coming operator, as well as with job center partners and other stakeholders, to ensure a smooth transition.

- The contract for the current operator, Hamilton County Job and Family Services, runs through June 30, 2026, and HCJFS will continue to provide services through that date.
- The job center will be operational with the new operator starting July 1. Remote services will be available Wednesday July 1 and Thursday July 2. The center will be closed for the national holiday July 3. In person services will resume Monday, July 6.

Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio
Board of Directors
May 13, 2026

Topic: **Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland**

Background: The Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland serves the American people as part of the US central bank. They support the US economy and our region by studying economic conditions and issues that impact our communities, serving financial institutions, and providing economic education and resources for all. Julianne Dunn, Regional Administrator, will present an overview of their work and how it may benefit our local businesses. Some basic information about Julianne and the Cleveland Fed are provided below.

Action Required: **Discussion**

About Julianne Dunn

Julianne Dunn is the regional executive of the Cincinnati Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. She is responsible for managing relationships with regional stakeholders and the branch board of directors, monitoring the region's economic environment, and contributing to the Bank's monetary policy mission. She also manages the Bank's Business Advisory Councils in southwest Ohio and northern Kentucky, central Ohio, the Dayton area, and eastern Kentucky.

Ms. Dunn joined the Bank as a research analyst in June 2017 and has since held positions of increasing responsibility. A native of central Michigan, she holds a BA in international studies from the Ohio State University and an MA in economics and international relations from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. Julianne also serves on the board of Cincinnati Works.

About the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

The Bank is one of 12 Federal Reserve Banks that, together with the Washington DC-based Board of Governors, make up the Federal Reserve System. The Cleveland Fed conducts economic research, supervises financial institutions, promotes community development, supplies coin and currency to banks, and provides other services to support the stability of our nation's financial and payments systems.

The Bank serves the people, businesses, and communities in the Federal Reserve's Fourth District, covering Ohio, western Pennsylvania, eastern Kentucky, and the northern panhandle of West Virginia.

Learn more at <https://www.clevelandfed.org/>

Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio
Board of Directors
May 13, 2026

Topic: Youth Engagement Project Update

Background: The Workforce Council received \$125,000 in funds from the United Way of Greater Cincinnati for a 12-month youth engagement project, which runs from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. The first half of the project focused on hearing directly from teens and young adults about what challenges they experience when exploring careers and attempting to get on a career pathway. An interim report which shares the findings from that effort is available at <https://cincyworkforce.org/our-impact/>. The consultants coordinating the project, Linda Braun and Caitlin Martin, will provide an update on the project's second phase at the Board meeting.

Action Required: Discussion

In response to needs identified from an online youth survey and subsequent focus groups, an AI agent is being developed to help connect young people to career resources, services, and mentors in our community. This is a pilot project confined by the length and funding of the grant; however, if it appears to have potential, WCSO could pursue additional funding.

The latest Youth Career Readiness Convening will be May 14th from 9:00 – 11:00 am at the OMJ Center in Conference Room C. This is an open meeting, and all interested parties are welcome to attend. The time will be spent reviewing the AI agent as it is so far, and exploring how attendees might collaborate to address the key findings in the interim report.

GRANTS: BUDGET & FINANCIAL

Report Date: 4/29/2026

SFY26; July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

as of: Month ending March 2026

SUB AREA	GRANT	PERIOD		BUDGET		FINANCIALS (CASH)		% Spent
#	Grant Group Name	End Date	Liquidation Date	Allocation	Available To Expend	Revenue - Local Sources	Disbursements	

S1399 - WIOA Admin

TOTAL:				1,466,191.45	531,244.44		934,947.01	63.77%
RESEA Admin - Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment	9/30/2025	9/30/2025	\$	46,892.80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,892.80	100.00%
RESEA Admin	6/30/2026	6/30/2026	\$	58,100.00	\$ 31,825.48	\$ -	\$ 26,274.52	45.22%
RESEA Admin	3/31/2027	6/30/2027	\$	20,580.16	\$ 20,580.16	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
WIOA Adult Admin	6/30/2025	9/30/2025	\$	69,243.13	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69,243.13	100.00%
WIOA Adult Admin	6/30/2026	9/30/2026	\$	181,991.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 181,991.00	100.00%
WIOA Adult Admin	6/30/2027	9/30/2027	\$	180,340.00	\$ 164,883.57	\$ -	\$ 15,456.43	8.57%
WIOA Dislocated Worker Admin	6/30/2025	9/30/2025	\$	43,007.92	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,007.92	100.00%
WIOA Dislocated Worker Admin	6/30/2026	9/30/2026	\$	79,095.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,095.00	100.00%
WIOA Dislocated Worker Admin	6/30/2027	9/30/2027	\$	67,186.00	\$ 47,153.70	\$ -	\$ 20,032.30	29.82%
PY23 CCMEP WIOA Youth Admin	6/30/2025	9/30/2025	\$	177,890.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 177,890.00	100.00%
PY24 CCMEP WIOA Youth Admin	6/30/2026	9/30/2026	\$	202,766.00	\$ 2,344.46	\$ -	\$ 200,421.54	98.84%
SFY25 State Special Projects Admin	6/30/2025	9/30/2025	\$	57,129.85	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,129.85	100.00%
PY25 CCMEP WIOA Youth Admin	6/30/2027	9/30/2027	\$	199,315.00	\$ 199,315.00	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
SFY26 State Special Projects Admin	6/30/2026	9/30/2026	\$	82,654.59	\$ 65,142.07	\$ -	\$ 17,512.52	21.19%
Not Subject to Allocation-LOCAL-100%			\$	-	\$ 288,603.60	\$ (2,895,930.66)	\$ 2,607,327.06	

S1331 - WIOA Program

TOTAL:				9,249,908.28	2,997,345.40		6,252,562.88	67.60%
RESEA Program - Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment	6/30/2025	9/30/2025	\$	281,113.16	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 281,113.16	100.00%
RESEA Program	9/30/2025	9/30/2025	\$	140,918.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140,918.00	100.00%
RESEA Program	6/30/2026	6/30/2026	\$	522,896.00	\$ 52,844.36	\$ -	\$ 470,051.64	89.89%
RESEA Program	3/31/2027	6/30/2027	\$	185,221.47	\$ 185,221.47	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
WIOA Adult Program	6/30/2025	9/30/2025	\$	1,539,211.87	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,539,211.87	100.00%
WIOA Adult Program	6/30/2026	9/30/2026	\$	1,637,919.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,637,919.00	100.00%
WIOA Adult Program	6/30/2027	9/30/2027	\$	1,623,060.00	\$ 1,480,371.20	\$ -	\$ 142,688.80	8.79%
WIOA Dislocated Worker Program	6/30/2025	9/30/2025	\$	820,133.08	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 820,133.08	100.00%
WIOA Dislocated Worker Program	6/30/2026	9/30/2026	\$	711,856.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 711,856.00	100.00%
WIOA Dislocated Worker Program	6/30/2027	9/30/2027	\$	604,666.00	\$ 539,979.71	\$ -	\$ 64,686.29	10.70%
SFY25 State Special Projects	6/30/2025	9/30/2025	\$	323,912.67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 323,912.67	100.00%
SFY26 OMJ Center Resource Sharing (JFSCS25)	6/30/2026	9/30/2026	\$	40,784.44	\$ 40,784.44	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
SFY26 OMJ Center Resource Sharing (JFSCR25)	6/30/2026	9/30/2026	\$	1,181.89	\$ 1,181.89	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
SFY26 State Special Projects	6/30/2026	9/30/2026	\$	743,891.26	\$ 626,297.19	\$ -	\$ 117,594.07	15.81%
SFY26 OMJ Center Resource Sharing (JFSFSW25)	6/30/2026	9/30/2026	\$	3,843.44	\$ 3,843.44	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
FY26 Rapid Response	9/30/2026	12/31/2026	\$	69,300.00	\$ 66,821.70	\$ -	\$ 2,478.30	3.58%
Not Subject to Allocation-LOCAL-100%			\$	-	\$ 1,359,208.28	\$ (1,359,208.28)	\$ -	

C1331 - WIOA TANF/CCMEP

TOTAL:				5,219,734.00	1,495,004.03		3,724,729.97	71.36%
PY23 CCMEP WIOA Youth Program	6/30/2025	9/30/2025	\$	1,601,006.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,601,006.00	100.00%
PY24 CCMEP WIOA Youth Program	6/30/2026	9/30/2026	\$	1,824,896.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,824,896.00	100.00%
PY25 CCMEP WIOA Youth Program	6/30/2027	9/30/2027	\$	1,793,832.00	\$ 1,495,004.03	\$ -	\$ 298,827.97	16.66%

WCSO's Finances 101

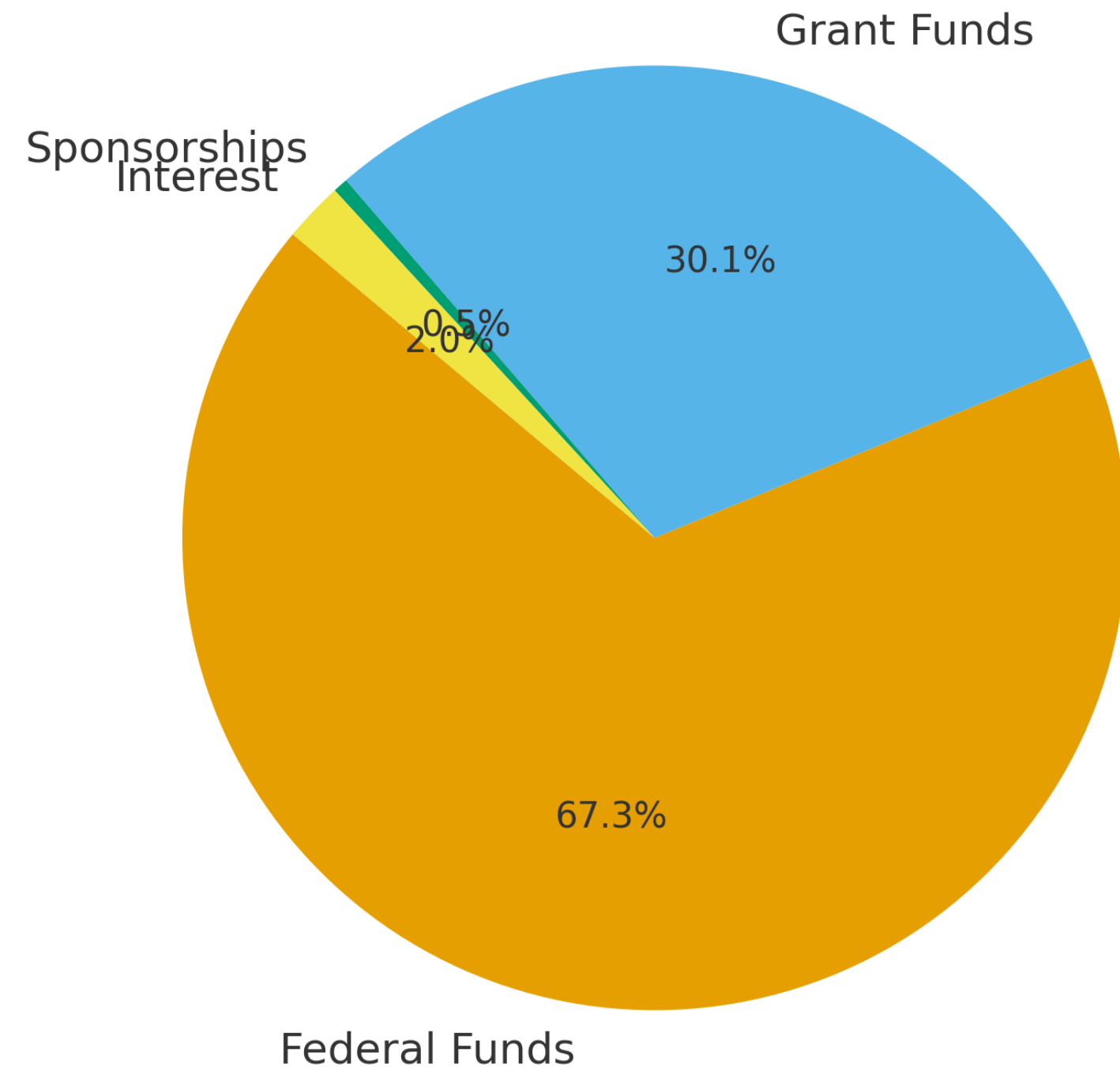
- Primary sources of funding
- Investments
- Main expenses
- Operational support
- Board role
- What's ahead



Primary Funding Sources

- WCSO's main funding source comes from the federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)
 - \$4,468,398 total allocation for current FY
 - Next FY = \$5,356,674
 - Allocation is determined annually by a formula created by the U.S. Dept. of Labor
 - Funds come to Ohio's Dept. of Job & Family Services
 - We receive on a reimbursement basis

Budget Breakdown



Investments

- Certificate of Deposit
 - ~ \$213K
 - LCNB
 - 11 mo. at 3.4% interest
- Checking & Savings Accounts
 - ~ \$620K
 - U.S. Banks weep
 - 2.6% interest



Main Expenses

WCSO is an intermediary organization: we contract with other entities to carry out the work

- Adult services contract ~ \$2.2M this FY
 - Hamilton County Job & Family Services
-
- Youth services contracts ~ \$1.8M this FY
 - Cincinnati Youth Collaborative
 - Hamilton County Job & Family Services
 - Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio
-
- WCSO Operational Expenses: we're permitted to take 10% of our WIOA allocation for overhead
 - Used for wages, benefits, equipment, supplies, etc.
 - Cost of job center operations funded separately through an MOU with WIOA-required partners

2025 – 2026

WC CSO Operating Budget Break down

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS (used for operations: wages, benefits, equipment, supplies)	
WIOA Admin Adult, Dislocated Worker & CCMEP YOUTH admin	446,839.00
WIOA Program - Adult, Dislocated Worker admin	150,000.00
RESEA Admin	31,235.00
TANF Admin	30,000.00
Talent Collaborative/ARPA Grant admin	15,000
Career Navigator admin (State Special Project)	54,704
Behavioral Health School to Work admin	18,714
GRANT FUNDS (not federal)	
Construction Convenings (State Special Project)	25,000.00
Strategic planning (State Special Project)	4,859.00
United Way Youth Engagement	125,000.00
Schmidlapp Trust Rec'd 6/26/25 (\$50K pass-thru to OMJ)	
FC Cincy Rec'd 8/11/25	5,000
SPONSORSHIPS	
5/3 Sponsorship Recd 5/30/25	5,000.00
TOTAL FEDERAL, SPONSOR & GRANT FUNDS	907,351.00
Unrestricted funds & interest (approx \$746,828 total). CD (11 mo @ 3.4%) = \$213,291 Keep 4 - 6 mo. Expenses available: \$388,245 - \$582,368	24,000.00
Job Center MOU/Facility Management (Funds to manage the partner MOU-approved Infrastructure Costs for the OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) Center)	450,200.00
TOTAL (excludes WIOA pass-thru to contracted entities)	1,381,551.00

Operational Support



- WIOA requires that each workforce area have a designated Fiscal Agent
 - Hamilton County Job & Family Services
- WCSO Executive Director role includes fiduciary responsibilities
- Contract with Atlas CPAs & Advisors for 8 hours/week accounting support for \$60K annually
- Contract with Locey & Locey to conduct an annual audit
- Cincinnati Regional Chamber handles payroll

Board of Directors Role



- Provide proper financial oversight
 - Assist in developing the annual budget
 - Ensure proper financial controls are in place
- One of the board's foremost responsibilities is to provide adequate resources for the organization to fulfill its mission.
- Accomplished through
 - Treasurer role
 - Finance Committee

What's Ahead in 2026

- Waiting to find out what our FY27 WIOA allocation is
- New MOU with job center partners by July 1
- Transition to a new Fiscal Agent by August
- Continue seeking grants, sponsorships, and donations



Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio
Board of Directors Meeting
May 13, 2026

Topic: **Fiscal Agent Designation**

Background: For all local workforce boards, a WIOA Fiscal Agent is a required entity designated by the Chief Elected Official in accordance with section 107(d)(12)(B)(i)(II) of WIOA to assist in the administration of WIOA grant funds under the direction of the local workforce board. The WIOA Fiscal Agent must receive and manage all formula WIOA funds allocated to the local workforce area. On Feb. 26th the Workforce Council received notice from Hamilton County Job & Family Services (HCJFS) that, effective Aug. 23, 2026, they were terminating the agreement between our organizations that outlined duties HCJFS would perform in the role of Fiscal Agent for the Workforce Council. Since that time, Beth Yoke has been investigating options for WCSO. She meets with the mayor May 19 to present her findings and recommendation to him.

Action Required: **Discussion**

Since February, the Workforce Council has been investigating options for new Fiscal Agents. This included:

- Outreach to the Cincinnati Regional Chamber, who declined consideration for this role
- Outreach to REDI Cincinnati, who stated that the Cincinnati Regional Chamber serves as their fiscal agent
- Polling other workforce boards in the Midwest to see which entities are serving as their Fiscal Agents. Findings were that most were their own Fiscal Agent, while for others it was a separate entity such as the city, county, or Chamber of Commerce.
- Conversations with multiple accounting firms on their expertise and capacity to provide certain financial services
- Discussions with the Workforce Council's Finance Committee on the viability of the Workforce Council becoming its own fiscal agent. Per direction from the Finance Committee, Beth Yoke has gathered together the information below regarding this option.

Southwest Ohio Context

The region manages multiple funding streams (WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, CCMEP, and discretionary grants), increasing fiscal complexity.

- There is strong regional employer demand, which can benefit from faster fiscal responsiveness (e.g., OJT contracts, incumbent worker training).
- The local talent market for experienced grant accountants/CPAs is competitive, particularly for professionals with federal compliance expertise.
- Peer metro areas in Ohio (e.g., Cleveland, Columbus) have explored or implemented more internalized finance functions, though models vary.

Regarding the option to become our own Fiscal Agent, this could unfold in two ways:

Option 1: In-House Fiscal Agent (create a staff position)

Key Advantages

1. Direct control and responsiveness

- Aligns fiscal execution with board priorities in real time
- Faster contract processing, reimbursements, and financial decisions

2. Stronger integration with programs

- Finance staff work directly with program teams
 - Earlier identification of underspending, compliance risks, or performance issues
3. Long-term capacity building
- Institutional knowledge remains within the organization
 - Supports growth across funding streams (including non-WIOA grants)
4. Alignment of accountability and control
- CEOs retain liability regardless—this model aligns responsibility with authority
5. Potential long-term cost efficiency
- Avoids vendor overhead and repeated procurement cycles
 - More predictable budgeting over time

Key Risks / Considerations

- Requires successful recruitment of specialized staff (grant accounting, compliance)
- Upfront investment in systems, policies, and internal controls
- Increased management and HR responsibility
- Exposure to staff turnover risk

Option 2: Outsourced Fiscal Agent (Accounting Firm or Contractor)

Key Advantages

1. Immediate access to specialized expertise
 - Firms often bring deep experience in federal grants, Uniform Guidance, and audits
 - Reduces risk of compliance errors or audit findings
2. Strong internal controls and audit readiness
 - Established systems and standardized processes
 - Experience managing multiple clients and federal programs
3. Faster implementation and continuity
 - No need to build infrastructure from scratch
 - Reduced disruption from staff turnover
4. Scalability and flexibility
 - Services can expand or contract with funding levels

- Useful in periods of uncertainty or transition

5. Reduced administrative burden

- Board and staff can focus on strategy, employer engagement, and outcomes

Key Risks / Considerations

- Less day-to-day control and slower responsiveness
- Institutional knowledge remains with vendor
- Ongoing procurement and contract management burden
- Potential long-term cost escalation
- Does not eliminate ultimate liability for CEOs

Decision Factors for WCSO

1. Talent Availability

- Can the region realistically recruit and retain a CPA or grant finance team with WIOA expertise?

2. Risk Tolerance

- Is the board comfortable building internal compliance systems, or is risk mitigation the priority?

3. Cost Over 3–5 Years

- Compare:
 - Contractor fees (including indirect/admin costs)
 - Salary, benefits, and infrastructure for in-house staff

4. Strategic Direction

- Does the board want to build internal capacity as a long-term asset?
- Or remain focused on oversight while outsourcing operations?

Cost Estimates

Cost Category	In-House Year 1	In-House Year 2-4 (Annual)	Outsourced Year 1 - 2	Outsourced Year 3 - 4 (Annual)	Notes
Personnel (CPA/Finance Director)	120,000	125,000	0	0	Salary + benefits competitive for SW Ohio region
Recruitment Costs	15,000	0	0	0	One-time hiring costs

Systems (Accounting, Grants Management)	20,000	10,000	0	0	Software + maintenance
Training & Compliance	10,000	8,000	0	0	WIOA, Uniform Guidance
Audit Support	15,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	External audit prep
Overhead (HR, IT, space)	30,000	30,000	0	0	Allocated overhead
Contracted Fiscal Agent Fees	0	0	160,000	168,000	Vendor fees for 40/hrs. week support
Contract Management/Admin	0	0	15,000	15,000	Staff oversight time
Contingency/Risk Buffer	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	Unexpected costs
TOTAL	215,000	193,000	195,000	203,000	

Recommendation

Based on the information shared above, the Workforce Council Executive Director recommends that WCSO become its own fiscal agent and to outsource that work to a qualified contractor. This arrangement will be evaluated after 18 months to determine if it remains the best fit for the organization, and based on findings, action will be taken accordingly.

Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio
Board of Directors
May 13, 2026

Topic: **Federal Funding Update**

Background: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is the primary federal funding stream for workforce development. These funds comprise 67% of the Workforce Council's current budget and help fund the OMJ Center as well as our youth programs. This legislation hasn't been updated in 12 years and has been flat-funded throughout that time. It is currently operating as an unauthorized piece of legislation. An attempt by Congress to pass a new workforce bill that would replace WIOA failed last year. The White House released its budget for the 2027 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, and a part of the budget is proposed workforce funding that the President is calling Make America Skilled Again (MASA).

Action Required: **Discussion**

Federal Workforce Funding & Legislation

- Typically, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) issues estimated WIOA allocations in December, but did not do so in 2025. Instead, the DOL issued state-level estimates on April 28. For Ohio, the proposed allocations for WIOA Title I and Title III are a 16.5% increase over last year. There is a 30-day comment period before these are finalized. After the allocations are finalized, the states will determine local allocations, which WCSO will use to create the 2026 – 2027 budget.
 - For reference, last year WCSO's allocations were down by about 2.5%, and the year before that they were up by about 10%
- The House Committee on Education and Workforce has reintroduced the workforce bill that nearly passed last year, A Stronger Workforce for America Act. It is out of Committee, but it's unclear when the House will take it up.
- Because of the failure of the last Congress to pass the proposed new workforce bill, the U.S. Department of Labor is encouraging states to use waiver authority to make changes to how they deliver workforce services in their state. Since July 2025, 22 states, including Ohio, have submitted waivers.
- The most concerning trend among the waivers is the consolidation or elimination of local workforce boards. This concept is gaining momentum and could come to Ohio. It is essential that the WCSO Board and stakeholders help state leaders understand that local workforce boards are not duplicative bureaucracy—they are the governance mechanism that makes a decentralized, employer-driven workforce system work.
- Make America Skilled Again (MASA), a proposal from the Trump Administration, would consolidate all federal workforce development programs into a single MASA grant and reduce U.S. Department of Labor funding by approximately 35%. In addition, it would switch the funding

stream to a block grant format, which could lead to the consolidation or elimination of local workforce boards.

Advocacy & Calls to Action

While various budget and workforce bills are still in the development and discussion phases, workforce-focused associations like the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) are strongly encouraging local workforce boards to engage with their members of Congress now to share their concerns about ASWA and MASA and to raise awareness about the important role local boards play in creating a thriving workforce ecosystem. Thank you in advance for responding to any calls to action that WCSO puts out.

Additional Information

- Workforce System Consolidation: What Local Stakeholders Need to Know: <https://bit.ly/3QTFtjQ> (National Association of Workforce Boards & National Association of Counties)
- WIOA reauthorization bill passes markup, reviving old concerns about local flexibility: <https://bit.ly/42jLGYU> (National Association of Counties)

Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio
Board of Directors Meeting
May 13, 2026

Topic: Take Action Moment: Elevator Speeches

Background: With federal workforce funding in jeopardy, and a growing nationwide movement to eliminate or consolidate local workforce boards, it is more important than ever to speak up for WCSO and the many ways the organization contributes to a strong and resilient local economy. Board Member Janelle Olds and WCSO Communications & Marketing Manager Libby Scott have drafted “elevator speeches” for Board Members to use when speaking with various audiences about our collective work. These are shared below, along with three requested action items for Board Members.

Action Required: Discussion

For Job Seekers

The Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio is a nonprofit that helps Cincinnati and Hamilton County residents get the skills local employers need, often with training fully covered by federal funds. Eligible residents can receive up to \$8,000 for short-term training (six months or less) and \$15,000 for longer-term training (over six months). Last year, we turned \$1.5 million in training investments into over \$10.6 million in income, a nearly 7x return. If you’re unemployed or underemployed, start your path to a better career at cincyworkforce.org.

For Employers

The Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio is a business-led nonprofit that helps employers find and keep the talent they need to succeed. We offer hiring support and assist employers with providing training through programs like On-the-Job Training reimbursements—about \$5,000 per eligible hire—and connect employers to state and federal workforce funding. Employers can participate in our Career Fairs, partner with us for hiring events, attend free workshops, collaborate on layoff aversion efforts, and more. Learn how we can support your workforce needs at cincyworkforce.org.

For Elected Officials

The Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio is a business-led nonprofit that oversees the public workforce system for Cincinnati and Hamilton County. We fund job training for residents, connect them to in-demand careers, and help employers find and retain skilled talent. Last year, we turned \$1.5 million in federal funds into \$10.6 million in local earnings, a nearly 7× return that strengthens families, businesses and the regional economy. We're proud to be part of a nationwide network driving workforce innovation. Learn more at cincyworkforce.org.

For Potential Funders

The Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio is a business-led nonprofit that connects talent to opportunities in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. By leveraging federal dollars, we fund job training for residents with barriers to employment and connect them to in-demand careers. Last year, \$1.5 million in federal funds generated over \$10.6 million in local earnings, a nearly 7× return. We hold a Platinum-level profile on Candid, demonstrating our commitment to transparency, accountability, and measurable impact. With your support, we can scale this success even further. Learn more at cincyworkforce.org.

Take Action

1. Tell us what format would be most helpful for you to receive this content
2. Decide how you will personalize one or more of these messages with an example of why you support WCSO
3. Choose two or three colleagues that you'll test drive one of these messages with and share your feedback with Libby