

GWDB Subcommittee Updates Q3 2024

Barriers and Underserved Populations

Last meeting: 7/24/2024

- Presentation from Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development on their Targeted Populations Workforce Competitiveness Grant. Key takeaways:
 - Program Origin and Target Population: The program emerged from community engagement sessions, aiming to address higher unemployment rates in specific demographics, despite Minnesota's overall low unemployment rate of 2.3%. It provides competitive grants for training employers, community-based organizations, and capacity building for smaller organizations.
 - Program Structure and Funding: The program, funded at \$18.5 million annually for two years, is divided into three parts: jobs and skills training, organizational mentorship, and entrepreneurship training. Grants are capped at \$750,000 per organization.
 - Eligibility and Focus: Eligible organizations must be community-based, 501(c)(3) entities located in historically underserved or low-income communities. The program particularly targets people of color, women, people with disabilities, and veterans.
 - Successes and Mentorship: 22 organizations were awarded grants, with 75% being culturally specific. The mentorship component aimed to pair smaller organizations with larger ones to navigate grant administration and build capacity, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship.
 - Challenges and Adjustments: Challenges included limited interest from eligible organizations, particularly in Greater Minnesota, due to a \$1 million revenue cap, which has since been removed. The program also faced difficulties with outreach, quality of responses, and the contracting process.
- Presentation from GOED on WINN Grant program and metrics. Key takeaways:
 - Fund Utilization: The fund is divided into \$5 million for each fiscal year, but the total \$10 million can be used across the biennium. Currently, over \$8 million has been awarded, leaving \$1.7 million remaining.
 - Industry-Led Programs: The WINN fund supports industry-led workforce training programs in partnership with authorized providers, primarily community colleges and higher education institutions. Programs are designed to meet specific workforce needs identified by employers, who commit to hiring program graduates.
 - Highlighted Programs: Several programs were highlighted, including diesel technician training, data science, logistics, and advanced manufacturing at Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), advanced manufacturing at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN), and welding technology at Great Basin College (GBC). Notable partnerships include those with Tesla, Panasonic, and various local employers.
 - Resources and Support: The GOED website offers resources for potential applicants, including application forms, budget templates, and examples of successful programs. The emphasis is on ensuring programs meet the statutory requirements and contribute to Nevada's economic goals.
- Discussion on GWDB Strategic Plan implementation and execution. Key takeaways:
 - Vice Chair Tyler-Garner expressed enthusiasm for the first-ever GWDB Strategic Plan, noting that the three goals of mitigating barriers for underserved Nevadans, engaging employers

with the workforce system, and aligning the workforce system to ensure individuals are directed into actual work tie into the Subcommittee's overall vision.

- Chair Evans thanked the Subcommittee for their participation noting that this endeavor will only be accomplished through teamwork. He echoed the sentiments that the Strategic Plan caters to the needs of both the individuals and the organizations serving individuals.
- Next steps based off presentations from that meeting:
 - Partnerships with Community Organizations: Inspired by the DEED model, the suggestion was made to explore how the committee might partner with organizations that have established credibility within underserved communities. The goal would be to pair these organizations with workforce boards to enhance service delivery and increase participation.
 - Leveraging Flexible Funding: The committee should consider how to leverage more flexible funding to help more individuals enter the workforce. A suggestion was made to see if there is a program that could leverage remaining WINN grant funding to support training for underserved individuals.

Upcoming meeting: 10/23/2024

Childcare

Last meeting: 8/14/2024

- Presentation from Wonderschool. Key takeaways:
 - Impact: Over the past three years, Wonder School has supported nearly 3,500 childcare programs and worked with 487 providers in Nevada. Their efforts have contributed to creating childcare slots valued at approximately \$140 million, benefiting children, parents, and the state's economy.
 - Challenges and Recommendations:
 - HOA and Real Estate Barriers: HOAs and real estate regulations are significant obstacles to establishing home-based childcare programs. Wonderschool recommended government intervention to mitigate these barriers, potentially by modeling solutions from other states.
 - Licensing and Regulatory Improvements: Wonderschool suggested streamlining the licensing process through technology and better support to reduce errors and speed up approvals. Additionally, there is a need for more uniform regulations across counties to avoid cost-prohibitive requirements for providers.
 - Substitute Teacher Pool: Wonder School successfully launched a substitute teacher pool in Mississippi, recruiting 7,000 teachers in less than a year. This model could be applied in Nevada to address staffing shortages, with the potential to transition substitute teachers to full-time roles or even start their own childcare programs.
 - Innovative Funding and Policy Ideas:
 - TRI Share Program: Chris mentioned the TRI Share model, where the cost of childcare is split between employers, parents, and the government, as a potential solution to explore in Nevada.
 - Sales Tax and Cannabis Funds: He suggested considering local sales tax increases or allocating cannabis tax revenue to fund childcare initiatives.
 - Consolidation of Childcare Services: Consolidating childcare-related services under a single state agency could reduce costs and improve efficiency.

- Broader Recruitment Strategies: Wonderschool recommended broadening the recruitment pool for childcare workers to include college students, retired teachers, and grandparents, potentially lowering barriers to entry and expanding the workforce.
- Presentation from Super Genius Kids. Key takeaways:
 - The family-run business started as home daycare with a 4:1 child to teacher ratio that eventually grew into a commercial facility in 2020 where they now serve 180 children.
 - In 2022, Super Genius Kids received a \$6 million grant for expansion, allowing them to purchase two additional buildings. Despite the challenges, including the need for loans and extensive construction, she remains dedicated to her vision of creating a unique and impactful childcare program.
- Presentation on updates to the 2023 GWDB Childcare Policy Report. Key takeaways:
 - Current State of Child Care: The report highlighted how childcare impacts the labor force and identified Nevada as a "child care desert," meaning demand far exceeds available child care spots. An update on how federal stimulus funds have affected childcare in Nevada, and the outreach efforts of initiatives like First Five Nevada, would be valuable.
 - Best Practices: The report included successful child care initiatives in rural Nevada, such as a new facility in Ely, and suggested further exploring similar models in other rural areas.
 - National Child Care Research: It was noted that Nevada is the most expensive state for child care relative to income. The subcommittee could update the report with new national data and explore successful models from other states that could be implemented in Nevada.
 - Policy Recommendations: The final section discussed potential policy updates, including using Department of Transportation funds for child care-related wraparound services, especially with new projects like the Brightline train.
 - The overall goal is to update the previous report with new data and insights, ensuring that childcare remains a priority in Nevada's workforce development strategy.

Upcoming meeting: 11/20/2024

Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Last meeting: 6/5/2024

- Meeting was canceled

Upcoming meeting: 9/11/2024