

Item Title: Appropriate Department of Labor (DOL) Funding for Capital Area Workforce Development (CAWD) Reentry Program Roads to Reentry

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates \$1,500,000 from the U.S. Department of Labor into the budget for Capital Area Workforce Development.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates grant awards to County departments.

Background: The Capital Area Workforce Development Board (CAWD) administers a wide range of job training and development programs, including programs that help released inmates find employment. CAWD applied for and received a grant for \$1,500,000 from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The grant will support participants' inclusion and integration into society, employment opportunities, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency. CAWD will address the full range of challenges faced by justice-involved individuals transitioning back to the community.

Roads to Reentry staff propose to serve individuals in lower risk participants who qualify, are interested, and are located in a local detention facility. Qualifying participants will receive career counseling, education and training while in the correctional facilities. After release, they will receive ongoing career support at the NCWorks Career Centers. This will include continued education and training as well as job placement. At least 188 individuals will be served by Roads to Reentry with the goal of placing 113 in occupational training or apprenticeships, and 132 placed into employment. The funding is for July 1, 2019 to September 30, 2022.

Board Goal: This action complements Board initiatives in the Public Safety goal area.

Fiscal Impact: The County will receive a one time \$1,500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. No matching funds are required.

Additional Information:

Participants will include individuals at Wake Correctional Center and NC Correctional Institution for Women in Wake County, Johnston Correctional Institute in Johnston County, and Wake County Detention Center who are returning to Johnston and Wake upon release.

Participants must be 25 years or older and have a release date at most nine months from the beginning of the program period.

Current and recent participants of the Wake County Inmate Employment and Education Initiative (WCIEEI) can benefit from this program through additional career counseling, training, and job placement post release.

Eckerd Connect, a nationally recognized non-profit, will provide program management, career and education advising, and client tracking for Roads to Reentry. Eckerd Connect was selected through a competitive RFP process to provide these services for the Wake County Inmate Employment and Education Initiative (WIEEI).

Attachments:

1. *Roads to Reentry* Grant Abstract
2. CAWD Budget Memo