



PROSPER
PORTLAND
Building an Equitable Economy

DATE: August 9, 2017
TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Kimberly Branam, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Report Number 17-36
Update on Workforce Development Services

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

None; information only

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT AND OUTCOMES

Prosper Portland's investments in the workforce development system promotes achievement of the agency's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan goals for wealth creation, access to high quality employment, and 21st century networks and partnerships.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

On June 28, 2017, the Prosper Portland Board of Commissioners (Board) through Resolution No. 7246 authorized the Executive Director to execute a contract with Worksystems, Inc. to administer youth and adult workforce development services as part of the Economic Opportunity Initiative as well as implement the Community Workforce Navigator Program during fiscal year (FY) 2017-18.

At the August 9, 2017 Prosper Portland Board meeting Prosper Portland staff, providers, and recipients will provide an update on workforce development activities and accomplishments.

EQUITY IMPACT

Worksystems, Inc. administers and implements youth and adult workforce development services as part of the Economic Opportunity Initiative, which is aimed at increasing economic vitality of low-income individuals and focuses on target populations most in need of assistance to achieve economic stability. Additionally, the Community Workforce Navigator Program provides community-based support to high-barriered job seekers in priority neighborhoods.

As of March 31, 2016, more than 1,500 individuals had been served through workforce development programs in FY 2016-17; the following table provides information on the individuals who are served by these investments:

Table 1. FY 2016-2017 Workforce Development Data and Demographics

	Youth	Adult
Participants served	491	1,178
People of Color	57%	77%
Homeless at Entry	103 (21%)	257 (22%)
Low income (0-80% MFI)	100%	99.8%
Very low income (0-30% MFI)	86%	89%
# Exited	140	489
Placed in employment at exit	99 (71%)	320 (65%)
Placed in post-secondary education at exit	14 (10%)	
Avg wage (of those placed at exit)	TBD	\$14.56

ATTACHMENTS

None.