



DATE: September 12, 2018
TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Kimberly Branam, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Report Number 18-38
Update on Workforce Development Services

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INFORMATION ITEM

At the September 12, 2018 Prosper Portland Board of Commissioners (Board) meeting, staff and partners will provide an update on workforce development services, accomplishments, and performance outcomes for fiscal year (FY) 2017-18.

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 by improving connections between target industry employees and job seekers and by connecting neighborhood residents to nearby quality job opportunities.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

On July 18, 2018, the Prosper Portland Board through Resolution No. 7279 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 FY 2018-19. This action supported the continuation of services to youth and adults including vocational case management, work experience opportunities, on-the-job training, and occupational training. Approximately \$1,100,000 will be provided for youth workforce development and \$1,000,000 for adult workforce development. In addition, approximately \$500,000 will be allocated toward the Community Workforce Navigator Program which provides community-based support to high-barrier job seekers in priority neighborhoods. Funding will come from federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, City of Portland (City) General Funds allocated to Prosper Portland, and Enterprise Zone contributions.

EQUITY IMPACT

As of June 30, 2018, more than 2,200 individuals had been served through workforce development programs funded by Prosper Portland in FY 2017-18. The following table provides information on the individuals who were served by these investments:

Table 1. FY 2017-18 Workforce Development Outcomes

	Youth	Adult	Workforce Navigator
Participants served	470	924	832
People of color	74%	56%	89%
Homeless at entry	109 (23.2%)	162 (17.5%)	
Low income (0-80% median family income)	100%	100%	
Very low income (0-30% median family income)	84%	88%	
Number exited	291	780	
Placed in employment or post-secondary education at exit	53 (18%)	374 (48%)	196 (24%)
Average wage of those placed at exit	TBD	\$15.04	

Staff and partners will further discuss and describe workforce development efforts and accomplishments at the September 12, 2018 Prosper Portland Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

None.