



**PROSPER**  
**PORTLAND**  
Building an Equitable Economy

**DATE:** November 13, 2019  
**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**FROM:** Kimberly Branam, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Report Number 19-51  
Update on Workforce Development Services

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INFORMATION ITEM**

At the November 13, 2019 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) 2018-19.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT AND OUTCOMES**

Prosper Portland's investments in the workforce development system promote achievement of the agency's Strategic Plan goals by improving connections between target industry employers and people in historically underserved communities to quality job opportunities.

#### **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

On July 10, 2019, the Prosper Portland Board through Resolution No. 7318 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 and to implement the Community Workforce Navigator Program during FY 2019-20. This action supported the continuation of services to youth and adults such as 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, more than \$500,000 will be allocated to 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, 2019, more than 2,400 individuals had received services through workforce development programs funded by Prosper Portland in FY 2018-19. The following table provides information on the individuals who were served by these investments:

**Table 1. FY 2018-19 Workforce Development Outcomes**

	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Workforce Navigator</b>
<b>Participants served</b>	502	936	977
<b>People of color</b>	64%	54%	66%
<b>Homeless at entry</b>	135 (27%)	166 (18%)	35 (4%)
<b>Low income (0-80% median family income)</b>	100%	100%	
<b>Very low income (0-30% median family income)</b>	83%	84%	
<b>Number exited</b>	94	255	
<b>Placed in employment or post-secondary education at exit</b>	69	239	186

Staff and partners will further discuss and describe workforce development efforts and accomplishments at the November 13, 2019 Prosper Portland Board meeting.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None.