



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

**DATE:** February 10, 2021  
**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**FROM:** Kimberly Branam, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Report Number 21-03  
Update on Workforce Development Services

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

At the February 10, 2021, 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) 2019-20.

#### **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 August 12, 2020, the Prosper Portland Board through Resolution No. 7386 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 2020-21. 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 \$1,075,000 will be provided for youth workforce development and \$1,027,000 for adult workforce development. In addition, more than \$520,000 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 funds, City of Portland General Funds allocated to Prosper Portland, and Enterprise Zone contributions.

#### **EQUITY IMPACT**

As of June 30, 2020, more than 2,300 individuals had received services through workforce development programs funded by Prosper Portland in FY 2019-20. The following table provides information on the individuals who were served by these investments:

**Table 1. FY 2019-20 Workforce Development Outcomes**

|   | <b>Youth</b> | <b>Adult</b> | <b>Workforce Navigator</b> |
|---|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Participants served</b>                                      | 524          | 895          | 906                        |
| <b>People of color</b>  | 63%          | 56%          | 73%                        |
| <b>Homeless at entry</b>  | 153 (29%)    | 219 (25%)    | 37 (4%)                    |
| <b>Low income (0-80% median family income)</b>                  | 100%         | 100%         | 100%                       |
| <b>Very low income (0-30% median family income)</b>             | 84%          | 83%          | 43%                        |
| <b>Number exited the program</b>                                | 111          | 272          | N/A                        |
| <b>Placed in employment or post-secondary education at exit</b> | 73%          | 78%          | 26% (232)                  |

Staff and partners will further discuss and describe workforce development efforts and accomplishments at the February 10, 2021, Prosper Portland Board meeting.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None.