



PROSPER
PORTLAND
Building an Equitable Economy

DATE: February 9, 2022
TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Kimberly Branam, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Report Number 22-07
Update on Workforce Development Services

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INFORMATION ITEM

At the February 9, 2022, 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) 2020-21.

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 14, 2021, the Prosper Portland Board through Resolution No. 7428 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 2021-22. 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 \$1,243,000 will be provided for youth workforce development and \$1,029,000 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, 2021, more than 1,900 individuals had received services through workforce development programs funded by Prosper Portland in FY 2020-21. The following table provides information on the individuals who were served by these investments:

Table 1. FY 2020-21 Workforce Development Outcomes

	Youth	Adult	Workforce Navigator
Participants served	511	787	612
People of color	68%	60%	90%
Homeless at entry	141 (28%)	223 (28%)	12 (2%)
Low income (0-80% median family income)	100%	100%	95%
Very low income (0-30% median family income)	80%	81%	64%
Number exited the program	106	320	N/A
Placed in employment or post-secondary education at exit	61%	95%	31%

Staff and partners will further discuss and describe workforce development efforts and accomplishments at the February 9, 2022, Prosper Portland Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

None.