

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver’s public workforce system set to tackle uncertain economy with jobseeker, employer programs

Contractors and grantees providing employment and training services worth \$4.7M citywide

DENVER - June 30, 2020 - Denver Economic Development & Opportunity (DEDO) is launching a new program year of workforce services on July 1 with a team of predominantly local nonprofit organizations ready to meet the critical needs of jobseekers and employers through the challenging COVID stabilization and recovery phases ahead.

“Through times of recession as well as double-digit job growth, the public workforce system must be flexible and ready to adjust to meeting the rapidly changing needs of unemployed and under-employed jobseekers as well as our employers,” said Eric Hiraga, DEDO Executive Director. “We’re making do with a very lean budget of federal dollars, local funds, and grant awards, but we have a strong lineup of providers for 2020-21 despite the intense setbacks that the COVID pandemic continues to bring.”

The contract with Eckerd Connects, which operates workforce and social service programs in 15 states, was approved by Denver City Council on June 22 and joins a roster of 12 local nonprofit organizations providing workforce services to Denver residents.

Denver Workforce Services contractors for the 2020-21 year include:

Organization	Program	Funding
Eckerd Connects	Adult and dislocated worker employment and training	\$2.5M
Denver Public Schools	In-school youth career exploration and job readiness	\$300,000
	Summer Youth Employment Program	\$630,000
Ability Connections Colorado	Out-of-school youth, particularly those with disabilities and other barriers to employment	\$550,000
Center for Employment Opportunity	Employment/supports for youth with justice system involvement	\$100,000
Urban Peak	Employment/supports for youth experiencing homelessness	\$115,000

In addition, through its annual Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, DEDO's Neighborhood Equity and Stabilization team (NEST) is currently managing additional workforce-related contracts serving some of the city's most vulnerable communities totaling \$515,000 throughout the 2020 year with the following local providers:

Organization	Program	Funding
Center for African American Health	Adult and youth job training and placement	\$95,000
Environmental Learning for Kids	Outdoor Recreation for Career Exploration at Urban Schools Program	\$50,000
Florence Crittenton Services	Education and job training for teen families	\$90,000
Girls Inc. of Metro Denver	Eureka STEM Program	\$60,000
Groundwork Denver	Green Team Youth Employment Program	\$60,000
La Raza Services, Inc.	Servicios Employment Growth Project	\$60,000
Lutheran Social Services of Colorado	Pamoja Women's Pathways to Growth (P2G) Program	\$50,000
Women's Bean Project	Transitional Employment Program	\$50,000

Beginning July 1, as part of the city's transition from an all-virtual delivery system for jobseekers, the three Denver Workforce Centers will be opening by appointment on a limited schedule as follows:

Westside, 1200 Federal, Blvd., 1st Floor – Appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Montbello, 4685 Peoria St., Suite 251 – Appointments on Wednesdays

To schedule an appointment at Westside or Montbello: 720-772-1182 or workforce.development@denvergov.org

DEN, 8500 Peña Blvd., 5th Floor – Appointments on Mondays and Tuesdays

To schedule an appointment at DEN: 303-342-2590 or reimaginedenverretail@denvergov.org

Virtual jobseeker programs and services continue to be available, with details from workforce.development@denvergov.org or 720-772-1182.

Denver Economic Development & Opportunity is leading an inclusive and innovative economy for all Denver residents, businesses, and neighborhoods. By supporting local and global business development, workforce programs, and stabilization efforts in Denver's diverse neighborhoods, we are creating opportunity for everyone to make a home, get a job, and build a future.

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