

## **Projects/Initiatives Supported by the GWDB Barriers Subcommittee**

The purpose of this list is to compile the national, state, and local financial and programmatic opportunities that the GWDB Barriers Subcommittee has examined to mitigate workforce and learning barriers for underserved Nevadans, which we define as individuals who have historically high unemployment rates or low labor force participation rates.

### **National Projects**

- Opportunity @ Work's STARS (Skilled Through Alternative Routes) in the Public Sector. 820k Nevadans in the labor force are STARS, comprising 60% of the total active labor force. STARS in Nevada are most likely to be African American. STARS earn 70% of what a Nevadan with a bachelor's degree would earn.
  - Presentation at Apr. 2024 meeting and applied for policy academy in Jul. 2024
- Minnesota Targeted Populations Workforce Competitive Grant Program through Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Grant receives \$18.5 million in state funding each fiscal year to award to regional organizations that support underserved populations in one of the three areas: 1) job and skills training, 2) organization mentorship, 3) entrepreneurship training.

### **State Projects**

- Project 354 (2x, one presentation from Senator Dina Neal in Jan. 2023 and second from Armando Leiva DHHS DWSS in Apr. 2024). Zip-code specific cohorts targeting underserved and at-risk populations. Services provided include barrier removal, academic support, and soft skill development.
- WIOA State Plan which aims to serve Nevadans with the most barriers for workforce engagement. Secured millions in federal funding for the State over the next four years.
- National Employment with a Disability Month through Vocational Rehabilitation. At point of time of the presentation, over 5,500 clients had been served with 550 achieving employment. Saves \$16.73 for every \$1 invested in VR.
- Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada (WINN) Grant program and metrics. Designs training at NSHE institutions based on employer needs. Awarded \$6 million for FY 23-25.
- Mindful trauma-informed workforce development which in practice saves \$35 for every \$1 invested in prevention. Necessary for underserved populations to overcome their trauma in order to reenter the workforce.

### **Local Projects (Southern NV)**

- City of Las Vegas programs and initiatives including the Hundred Plan in Action and Marble Manor to provide holistic support for the underserved individuals in Las Vegas to reenter the workforce.
- UNLV College of Education including Rebel Teach Program, Rebel Start Summer Camp, Professional Pathways Program, and teaching apprenticeships all programs designed to provide pathways for youth to enter into a sustainable career in education.
- King of Jewels (3x, Jul. 2023, Oct. 2023, and Oct. 2024) which provides mentoring to cohorts of young African American males in Southern Nevada to gain life and professional skills and ultimately find a quality career pathway.
- Battle Born Burgers, assists people with disabilities gain employment
- Community Investment Impact Dashboard through Workforce Connections to demonstrate the ROI of Workforce Connections assisting underserved populations receive job training and placement.
- CSN North Las Vegas is the largest higher education institution in the State with the North Las Vegas campus serving underserved populations more than the other campuses. Hispanics comprise 50% of enrollment at the NLV campus.

### **Local Projects (Northern & Rural NV)**

- Good Jobs Northern Nevada Grant through Nevadaworks (2x, Oct. 2023 and Apr. 2024) which provides training and job opportunities for underserved populations in healthcare, IT, manufacturing, and logistics. Focus on rural areas with Nevadaworks serving 13/17 counties. Nevadaworks has hired tribal liaisons to build relationships with Native American communities.