FIRST PLANNING DISTRICT

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

July 20, 2026

Notice is hereby given that there will be a public meeting of the First Planning District Workforce Development Board on **Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at 8:30 a.m**. This meeting will be held at Nunez Community College, 3710 Paris Rd, Chalmette, LA in the STCCC Building Conference Room.

AGENDA:

1. Call to order and Welcome....................Mindy Nunez Airhart, Chairman
2. Invocation....................Suzanne Torregano (1 minute)
3. Approval of April 2026 meeting minutes....................Mindy Nunez Airhart (1 minutes)
4. Review of Final Expenditure Reports through June 2026....................Suzanne Torregano (8 minutes)
    a. Approval of budget revision
    b. If allocations are received from the State, approval of new PY budget; If not, review current funding/carryover
5. Review and approval....................Suzanne Torregano (10 minutes)
    a. One Stop Operator annual renewal
    b. Finance Manager's updated contract
    c. Financial Management Policy
    d. Procurement Policy
    e. Personnel Policy
6. Updates on Legislative Session....................Rep Stephanie Berault (20 minutes)
7. Open Discussion....................Everyone (5 minutes)
8. Updates, if any....................Suzanne Torregano (10 minutes)
    a. Recap of 2025 – 2026
    b. PY24/FY25 Monitoring Update
    c. State One Door and Transition Update
    d. Center Certification
9. One Stop Operator Report....................Bryan Moore (5 minutes)
10. Other Business
11. Review of action items
12. Public Comment Period

Mindy Nunez Airhart

Mindy Nunez Airhart, Chairman

FIRST PLANNING DISTRICT WDB MEETING MINUTES

April 29, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.

MEETING INFORMATION

Location	This meeting was held in person at Towers Bldg, 520 Old Spanish Trial Ave, Slidell, LA 70458 in the 5th floor conference coom.

Attendees						
	Chairperson Mindy Nunez Airhart	*P*	Chris Abadie	*P*	Sandy Badinger	*P*
	James Carlson	*P*	Jamene Dahmer	*P*	Keith Espadron	*A*
	Jonika Fisher	*P*	Ross Gares	*P*	Garrett Giglio	*P*
	Daniel Gross	*A*	David Horchar	*A*	Michelle Hebert	*A*
	Bill Henley	*A*	Dave Kaufmann, Jr.	*P*	Cherie LaRocca	*A*
	Rachel Mackey	*P*	Elizabeth Maillian	*P*	Kelly Phillips	*A*
	Jerry Repka	*P*	Michelle Uzee	*P*	Bryan Moore	*A*
	Mrs. Suzanne Torregano	*P*	Mr. Dave Maziarz	*P*	Ms. Stacie Chitwood	*P*

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:41 a.m. by Chairperson Mindy Nunez Airhart and a quorum was declared.

2. INVOCATION

Mrs. Suzanne Torregano gave the invocation.

3. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 28, 2026 MEETING MINUTES (*ACTION ITEM*)

Chairperson Mindy Nunez Airhart presented the minutes from January 28, 2026, board meeting, and reviewed the action items. A motion for approval was made by Mrs. Sandy Badinger and seconded by Dr. James Carlson. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote with no objections or abstentions.

4. REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES REPORTS THROUGH MARCH 31, 2026

Mrs. Suzanne Torregano was recognized to address the board to discuss an overview of our expenditures and performance of our current program year throughout the first quarter.
The fund utilization report shows our three funding categories. Currently, we are at 48.32% of our funding. Overall, we started slowly because we didn't have our allocated funding until late August and we also were facing the government shutdown in October but have ramped up speed to where we are expected to be. This report shows that we have expended all funds that must be spent before June 30th with $0 at risk of recapture.
The expenditure to budget report shows what we're spending in accordance with our budget. This report shows us what is being spent administratively, along with how much we are spending on our actual clients across all three parishes. We had $1,023,194 budgeted for training and support, and currently we are at 61.74%, which is right on track with expectations.
The next report that you'll see is our actual annual budget for the program year, and it shows you exactly how much we spend on each category by line item. Mrs. Torregano stated that the only two categories that currently show an overage are Travel & Mileage and the Workforce Board expenses due to the breakfast that was purchased in October. This will be balanced with the balance revision at the end of the program year.
Mrs. Torregano concluded by sharing that we're right where we need to be. We're not overspending, pacing it as we should be, and helping as many people as we possibly can. Mrs. Torregano offered a brief explanation of how fund allocations are planned and received for the board's new members.
Chairperson Nunez-Airhart opened the floor to questions, and no inquiries being made.

5. WORKS TRAINING FUND

Mr. Richard Persad from LA Works was recognized to provide an overview of the Louisiana WORKS Training Fund, a statewide employer-led workforce development initiative administered by Louisiana Works in partnership with the Louisiana Construction Education Fund. The program is designed to help Louisiana employers train new and existing workers in high-demand industries through performance-based reimbursement of eligible training costs. Funding is available through 2029, with approximately $7 million allocated to support workforce development efforts.
Key program focus areas include Construction and industrial trades, Advanced manufacturing, Skilled technical and industrial careers, and AI-enabling occupations, digital infrastructure, and data center-related workforce needs.
It was noted that eligible Louisiana employers may receive reimbursement for approved training programs, including

employer-led training, community and technical college programs, third-party training, registered apprenticeships, and work-based learning initiatives. Reimbursement rates are based on employer size and may cover up to 80% of eligible training costs for employers with fewer than 100 employees, 70% for employers with 101 to 500 employees, or 60% for employers with more than 500 employees.

Program reimbursement is performance-based and distributed in two phases: Upon completion of approved training activities, and after six months of employee retention following training completion.

Eligibility requirements include operating in Louisiana, participating in a targeted industry, training new or incumbent workers, maintaining an approved training plan, and reporting training and employment outcomes. Training participants must be employed at a Louisiana worksite and meet program qualifications.

Mr. Persad discussed the potential benefits of the program, including offsetting workforce training costs, supporting employee skill development, enhancing workforce retention, and obtaining reimbursement for qualified training expenditures.

Mr. Chris Abadie inquired about whether this initial allocation of $7 million is a test or are there talks about expanding this program beyond the ability to help 4,600 people. Mr. Persad stated that he believes this program will be expanding. Currently, this program is planned to continue through 2029, and it is very likely that the initial allocation will be exhausted before then. Chairperson Nunez-Airhart shared her excitement with the announcement of this program. She mentioned that within her own organization that is has been becoming more difficult to find skilled workers and has noticed the need for an internal training program. She shared that this program would be perfect for this scenario.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

With both committee chairpersons absent for this meeting, no committee reports were shared. Mrs. Torregano mentioned that she was present at both meetings and provided an overview of each. She shared that both committees have positive initial meetings, but shortly after the executive order was shared, most activity did not continue. Both recent meetings were focused on resetting expectations moving forward until more information from the executive order is received.

7. OPEN INDUSTRY DISCUSSION

Mrs. Michelle Uzee provided an update on AWG's automation initiative within the dry grocery division. AWG (Associated Wholesale Grocers) currently relies on selectors who manually build pallets for delivery to member grocery stores and cooperatives. Due to ongoing workforce retention challenges, the company is implementing an AI-driven robotic automation system to support warehouse operations. Construction is scheduled to begin in October of this year, with automation equipment being retrofitted into the existing dry grocery facility rather than requiring a new building. Approximately 85% of dry grocery operations are expected to be automated through this project. The implementation timeline anticipates the system going live by October of next year. Management emphasized that the automation initiative is not expected to result in layoffs; instead, workforce impacts will be managed through a reduction in hiring as positions become vacant. The Board has been advised that additional updates will be provided as the project progresses and as industry impacts become clearer.

Mr. Keith Espadron reported that he worked directly with AWG to help facilitate completion of the automation project. He noted that the initiative represents a $10 million capital investment and is expected to create 38 new high-wage positions, primarily in STEM-related fields, including automation technicians and AI specialists responsible for programming and monitoring the new equipment. He expressed enthusiasm for the project, highlighting that it is the largest capital investment in St. Tammany Parish since 2013, when AWG announced its initial investment in the area. Mr. Espadron also referenced other significant economic development projects, including investments by Globalstar, Amazon, and Hornbeck Offshore, and stated that, combined with AWG's announcement and another major announcement made earlier this year, these projects represent approximately $15 billion in investment coming to St. Tammany Parish.

Chairperson Nunez-Airhart discussed the impact of automation on the workforce, noting her experience in the fabrication industry and efforts to bring humanoid welding robots to market. She expressed the view that automation should create opportunities for workers performing difficult or undesirable jobs to be retrained, upskilled, and transitioned into higher-paying roles. Chairperson Nunez-Airhart also raised a question regarding whether AWG has experienced any community pushback related to the implementation of automation and AI technologies. Mrs. Uzee reported that there has been no significant community pushback regarding the automation project. While the initial announcement created some uncertainty among employees, they emphasized that the initiative is viewed as an opportunity for existing staff to develop new skills and transition into less physically demanding, higher-skilled career paths. Mrs. Uzee mentioned that workforce retention remains a challenge, with hiring needs averaging 10 to 15 new employees per week and a relatively high turnover rate. The automation project is expected to help address these ongoing staffing challenges while providing employees with opportunities for professional growth and advancement.

Mr. Chris Abadie reported strong macroeconomic momentum across the New Orleans region, particularly in the advanced technology, manufacturing, and aerospace sectors. He expressed optimism that the region is positioned to develop one of the strongest basic economies in its history over the next 10 to 20 years He shared that there has been continued activity on major river-based industrial projects, including involvement with a new LNG facility in Plaquemines Parish currently in the FERC filing process and being fast-tracked. There is progress on several significant rail-served industrial site projects along the river, although details remain confidential. There is growing interest from national distribution and logistics developers seeking to establish a presence in the region. One major developer with an existing footprint in Mobile is pursuing a partnership to develop large-scale Class A distribution facilities locally. Textron's purchase of a facility for back-office support and training was highlighted as an important milestone and potential catalyst for additional manufacturing growth in the area. There are also positive developments in the aerospace sector, including opportunities associated with the NASA/Stennis region. Efforts are ongoing to attract a third-party developer to establish a business park near the NASA site, although challenges remain due to development costs and risk considerations. Discussions continue with prospective tenants interested in locating there. Mr. Abadie noted that this is the first year he has been able to hear significant economic development "wins" at the GNO, Inc. annual luncheon. He also observed that perceptions of Louisiana among investors and businesses outside the state are often more favorable than those held by residents, emphasizing the importance of promoting confidence in the region's economic future.

Dr. Jim Carlson provided an update on workforce and academic program development initiatives at the college. The Mechatronics Program, established in 2018, was expanded through a Department of Labor grant awarded in 2023, allowing the program to transition into an associate degree pathway. New certificate programs in Supply Chain Logistics and Safety were launched in Fall 2025. A new Patient Navigator Associate Degree Program is scheduled to launch later this fall and will be the first program of its kind in Louisiana. The program is designed to support healthcare systems by allowing registered nurses to remain focused on bedside care while patient navigators assist with long term patient care coordination. The college will begin a Bridge to RN Program in June. The accelerated pathway can be completed in one year. A Surgical Technology Program will launch in January through the HERO Grant and will be offered at the Lacombe campus. On the workforce training side, aluminum welding has been added to the curriculum, and robotic welding in aluminum will be introduced this semester. The Maritime Program was transitioned from the academic division to workforce training after challenges related to students obtaining required sea time. Since the transition, the program has maintained continuous work with Florida Marine. The maritime simulator is also being relocated to the company's training center in Mandeville. Student success outcomes were highlighted, including the first graduate of the Mechatronics Program securing employment with SpaceX, and the first graduate of the Advanced Manufacturing Program obtaining employment with Intralox.

Mr. Jimmy Eveker provided an update on Textron's long-term commitment to the region, emphasizing that the company's most significant investment is not capital expenditures but workforce development. Textron is committed to hiring locally through community college partnerships rather than relying on contract labor or recruiting from outside the area. Northshore Technical Community College remains Textron's primary workforce partner, with additional collaborations underway with Delgado, Nunez, and Pearl River institutions. Mr. Eveker highlighted the success of the partnership with Northshore, noting that it is producing strong results in developing skilled workers, particularly welders. Textron faces a significant challenge with welder attrition, currently around 40%, and has struggled to find qualified aluminum welders. As a result, the company has focused on developing its own workforce pipeline through educational partnerships. He praised Louisiana's welding talent and noted the increasing participation of women in skilled trades, citing female master welders among Textron's top performers. Regarding company growth, Mr. Eveker discussed Textron's continued investment in its Gause Boulevard facility, reinforcing the company's long-term commitment to the region. He noted favorable conditions in the defense and shipbuilding sectors, including increased Navy demand for hovercraft production and opportunities to expand sales to allied nations. As production opportunities grow, Textron's focus is on strengthening the supporting infrastructure, including supply chain management and operational capabilities, which are centered at the Gause Boulevard location. A key concern identified was workforce retention and the reliance on temporary agency welders. Mr. Eveker explained that contract workers often leave before Textron realizes a return on its training investment, creating operational challenges. Factors affecting retention include the demanding nature of welding work, environmental conditions, and workforce culture. Textron is actively working to improve workplace conditions and rebuild a family-oriented culture to encourage long-term employment. Mr. Eveker expressed strong interest in expanding collaboration with educational institutions to better align training programs with industry needs. Textron seeks greater involvement in curriculum development and instruction to ensure graduates possess the specific skills required for immediate workplace success. He emphasized that community colleges provide employees with fewer bad habits to retrain and allow for faster transition from classroom learning to productive work on the manufacturing floor. Textron is also exploring engagement with high school programs to strengthen the talent pipeline and create additional pathways into skilled trades careers.

Mrs. Jamene Dahmer reported that United Way recently opened a new Prosperity Center on St. Claude Avenue in St. Bernard Parish, expanding services that are already available through the Prosperity Center in Covington. These centers provide financial education, workforce readiness training, intensive case management, and Individual Development Account (IDA) programs that help participants build assets such as homes, vehicles, and small businesses. She also announced that United Way has become an official Grow with Google partner, significantly increasing access to digital skills and workforce development training. Through this partnership, United Way has secured 500 Coursera licenses, allowing participants to earn free certifications in high-demand fields such as project management, data analytics, e-commerce, UX design, and artificial intelligence (AI). The program was launched recently and already has approximately 40 participants enrolled. Training opportunities range from individual course completion certificates to industry recognized credentials. Mrs. Dahmer noted that the courses include assessments designed to reinforce learning and allow participants multiple opportunities to achieve proficiency. To support participants, United Way is also establishing technology hubs at its Prosperity Centers, providing access to computers, internet connectivity, and in-person assistance. Plans include hiring a technology support specialist to help individuals complete coursework and certifications. Community members, businesses, and employers are encouraged to refer employees or others who may benefit from these educational and career advancement opportunities.

8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Mrs. Torregano provided an update on workforce-related legislation and state workforce system restructuring efforts. House Bill 680 (Waiver Package, which contains the workforce waiver requests), has progressed through the House, Senate readings, and the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee. The waiver package has largely received legislative approval. The waivers are included in the State Modified Plan, and the public comment period closed on Friday. State officials are compiling public comments and plan to submit the modified plan to the U.S. Department of Labor. Discussions with state leaders emphasized the importance of including an implementation team, which is expected to include at least two Chief Elected Officials. Mrs. Torregano noted the board's continued advocacy for local representation in decision-making and the importance of maintaining funding at the local level. She also reported that references to "workforce boards" in the plan were changed to "workforce partners," giving the state greater flexibility in defining participating entities.

House Bill 951 (Louisiana Talent Accelerator), establishes the Office of Louisiana Talent Accelerator under Louisiana Works. The bill has passed the House, cleared the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee, and has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee for review of fiscal and staffing impacts.

Mrs. Torregano stated that the state's consolidation effort is intended to reduce administrative burdens and improve operational efficiency among workforce, education, and social service entities. She expressed hope that consolidation could lead to more standardized policies and service delivery across the state while allowing local workforce areas and American Job Centers to continue operating effectively.

Mrs. Torregano concluded by noting that staff will continue working with state officials, advocating for local input and the continuation of funding for local workforce areas. While the outcome remains uncertain, she expressed optimism about ongoing discussions and future implementation efforts.

9. CURRENT INITIATIVES

Mr. Dave Maziarz reported that the Center recently completed activities associated with the GNO RAAMP Grant for Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace and continues to see strong growth and engagement across workforce development initiatives. The second annual Career Expo was a significant success, with attendance more than doubling from the previous year. He noted that increased communication and collaboration among K-12 education, higher education, employers, community organizations, and workforce partners have contributed to growing momentum throughout the region. This increased engagement is reflected in a 400% increase in partner referrals year-to-date, demonstrating heightened awareness and participation in workforce development efforts.

Mr. Maziarz also provided an update on the NIST grant awarded through the U.S. Department of Commerce. Although the project experienced delays due to the federal government shutdown shortly after the award was announced, implementation is now underway. Initial convenings with education and employer stakeholder groups are planned before broader collaborative efforts begin. In addition, Mr. Maziarz and Don Shea recently visited LSU's Cyber Center and Cyber Lab, where they observed firsthand the strong career opportunities available to graduates in high-demand fields such as cybersecurity and advanced technology. He emphasized the importance of sharing these success stories with students, noting that young professionals who have recently entered the workforce are often the most effective ambassadors for encouraging career exploration and workforce participation.

Mr. Maziarz further reported that post production is being finalized on a series of workforce focused videos developed through the RAAMP Expo. With support from Northshore Technical Community College, the videos feature employer panels, training provider discussions, and testimonials from young professionals who have successfully advanced along regional career pathways. Once completed, these resources will be distributed to Chambers of Commerce, economic development organizations, school systems, higher education institutions, and workforce partners for use in career awareness and outreach activities.

The Center continues to support additional career expos, hiring events, and industry engagement opportunities throughout the region. Mr. Maziarz highlighted a recent manufacturing event for high school students hosted by Northshore Technical Community College and discussed the growing importance of supply chain careers as major economic development projects continue to expand across Southeast Louisiana. He concluded by noting that Louisiana is positioned for significant economic growth and workforce opportunities, with talent development and workforce availability remaining critical priorities as the state prepares for continued expansion.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Torregano reminded all board members that some Conflict-of-Interest forms are still needed by some members. Board members were reminded to complete and submit their Personal Financial Disclosure forms within the next two weeks. Reminder emails will be sent every two to three days to members who have not yet completed the disclosure. Members will be removed from the reminder list once their submission is confirmed. Mrs. Torregano emphasized the importance of timely compliance, noting that failure to submit required disclosures may result in personal penalties that cannot be paid by the board. Members may either upload disclosures directly to the appropriate website or submit them through Mrs. Torregano. She will begin monitoring the reporting site on the first of the month to verify compliance.

Mrs. Torregano reported that there are currently vacant board positions. Mr. Ellis Borque is no longer serving on this board. Mr. Mark Pasani is no longer employed by Associated Terminals and, therefore, is no longer eligible to serve on the board. The board is considering whether and how to fill the current vacancies.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Chairperson Mindy Nunez Airhart opened the floor to any questions and public comments. No further comments were made. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Chris Abadie and seconded by Mr. Dave Maziarz. The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 am.

FIRST PLANNING DISTRICT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

FUND UTILIZATION REPORT

Month ending JUNE 2026

	Admin	Program	Total Allocation	Expended 30-Jun-26	Balance	Percent Expended	Obligations	Percent w/Oblig	At-Risk of Recapture by 6/30/26
Adult									
FY25 expires 6/26		366,884.00	407,649.00	366,884.00	0.00	100.00%		100.00%	0.00
FY25 expires 6/26	40,765.00			40,765.00	0.00	100.00%		100.00%	0.00
					0.00	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	0.00
					0.00	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	0.00
PY25 expires 6/27		125,844.00	139,827.00	125,844.00	0.00	100.00%		100.00%	
PY25 expires 6/27	13,983.00			13,983.00	0.00	100.00%		100.00%	
FY26 expires 6/27		520,790.00	578,656.00	177,359.47	343,430.53	34.06%	96,328.98	52.55%	
FY26 expires 6/27	57,866.00			0.00	57,866.00	0.00%	19,678.80	34.01%	
	112,614.00	1,013,518.00	1,126,132.00	724,835.47	401,296.53	64.37%	116,007.78	74.67%	0.00
Dislocated Worker									
PY24 expires 6/26		53,648.00	67,942.00	53,648.00	0.00	100.00%		100.00%	0.00
PY24 expires 6/26	14,294.00			14,294.00	0.00	100.00%		100.00%	0.00
FY25 expires 6/26		415,406.00	461,562.00	415,406.00	0.00	100.00%		100.00%	0.00
FY25 expires 6/26	46,156.00			46,156.00	0.00	100.00%		100.00%	0.00
PY25 expires 6/27		122,594.00	136,216.00	122,594.00	0.00	100.00%		100.00%	
PY25 expires 6/27	13,622.00			13,622.00	0.00	100.00%		100.00%	
FY26 expires 6/27		374,843.00	416,492.00	20,579.68	354,263.32	5.49%	25,658.91	12.34%	
FY26 expires 6/27	41,649.00			0.00	41,649.00	0.00%		0.00%	
	115,721.00	966,491.00	1,082,212.00	686,299.68	395,912.32	71.01%	25,658.91	65.79%	0.00
Youth									
PY24 expires 6/26		457,419.00	508,243.00	457,419.00	0.00	100.00%		100.00%	0.00
PY24 expires 6/26	50,824.00			50,824.00	0.00	100.00%		100.00%	0.00
PY25 expires 6/27		634,155.00	704,617.00	145,601.97	488,553.03	22.96%	58,249.07	32.15%	
PY25 expires 6/27	70,462.00			4,413.80	66,048.20	6.26%	66,048.20	100.00%	
	121,286.00	1,091,574.00	1,212,860.00	658,258.77	554,601.23	54.27%	124,297.27	64.52%	0.00
Grand Total	**349,621.00**	**3,071,583.00**	**3,421,204.00**	**2,069,393.92**	**1,351,810.08**	60.49%	**265,963.96**	68.26%	0.00

FPD WDB EXPENDITURES TO BUDGET REPORT
through JUNE 2026

Budget Line Items	ANNUAL BUDGET JULY 2025 - JUNE 2027	06/31/2026	% EXP	BALANCE OF FUNDS	CURRENT OBLIGATIONS	BALANCE INCLUDING OBLIGATIONS	% W/ OBS	RESERVE FOR FUTURE YEAR 07/26 - 6/27
Tri-Parish Centers - Program								
Staff Salaries/Fringe	906,885.00	871,599.33	96.11%	35,285.67		35,285.67	96.11%	158,118.10
Operating Costs	168,831.00	144,859.51	85.80%	23,971.49	0.00	23,971.49	85.80%	36,500.00
OVERHEAD SUBTOTAL	**1,075,716.00**	**1,016,458.84**	**94.49%**	**59,257.16**	**0.00**	**59,257.16**	**94.49%**	**194,618.10**
Training & Support for Clients								
Plaquemines	67,000.00	23,464.44	35.02%	43,535.56	0.00	43,535.56	35.02%	58,585.00
St. Bernard	203,000.00	150,717.43	74.25%	52,282.57	0.00	52,282.57	74.25%	175,757.00
St. Tammany	753,194.00	485,751.93	64.49%	267,442.07	0.00	267,442.07	64.49%	351,513.00
TRAINING/SUPPORT SUBTOTAL	**1,023,194.00**	**659,933.80**	**64.50%**	**363,260.20**	**0.00**	**363,260.20**	**64.50%**	**585,855.00**
NIST (non salary)	84,883.00	17,271.50	20.35%	67,611.50	0.00	67,611.50	20.35%	28,183.00
GNO IP (non salary)								0.00
								0.00
Tri-Parish Sub Total	**2,183,793.00**	**1,693,664.14**	**77.56%**	**490,128.86**	**0.00**	**490,128.86**	**77.56%**	**808,656.10**
Admintraton Office								
Staff Salaries/Fringe	152,523.00	148,511.78	97.37%	4,011.22	0.00	4,011.22	97.37%	134,385.45
Operating Costs	41,800.00	27,633.47	66.11%	14,166.53		14,166.53	66.11%	13,000.00
ADMIN SUB TOTAL	**194,323.00**	**176,145.25**	**90.65%**	**18,177.75**	**0.00**	**18,177.75**	**90.65%**	**147,385.45**
GRAND TOTALS	**2,378,116.00**	**1,869,809.39**	**78.63%**	**508,306.61**	**0.00**	**508,306.61**	**78.63%**	**956,041.55**

ORIGINAL BUDGET 25-26

FIRST PLANNING DISTRICT
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
TWO-YEAR BUDGET
JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027

Total Funds available through June 2027	PROGRAM	Additional PROG Funds	ADMIN	Additional ADMIN Funds	TOTAL
Total Carryover Funds	959,987.65		144,126.45		1,104,114.10
New Allocation 20252027	1,778,226.00		197,582.00		1,975,808.00
AARP New/Carry Over	30,428.96				30,428.96
CAA - SUM '25	13,193.59				13,193.59
GNO INC	12,031.90				12,031.90
NIST	198,581.00				198,581.00
GRAND TOTAL	2,992,449.10	0.00	341,708.45	0.00	3,334,157.55
	2,992,449.10		341,708.45		3,334,157.55

LINE ITEMS	ANNUAL BUDGET July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026		EXPENDITURES TO DATE JUNE 2026		BALANCE	
	PROGRAM	ADMIN	PROGRAM	ADMIN	PROGRAM	ADMIN
Staff Salaries/Fringe	906,885.00	69,511.00	871,599.33	65,978.24	35,285.67	3,532.76
One Stop Operator	60,000.00		60,000.00		0.00	0.00
Salaries Contract - Finance Dir		83,012.00		82,533.54	0.00	478.46
Travel/Mileage	5,000.00	2,000.00	6,832.54	2,091.64	(1,832.54)	(91.64)
Conference/Meetings	9,450.00	2,550.00	2,352.29	1,115.28	7,097.71	1,434.72
Unemployment Insurance	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00
Staff Drug Screen/new hire	250.00	50.00	60.00		190.00	50.00
Accounting Services	0.00	9,000.00		8,076.59	0.00	923.41
Supplies	10,900.00	1,480.00	9,402.43	1,006.57	1,497.57	473.43
Furniture/Equipment	10,500.00	3,100.00	5,973.38	2,658.03	4,526.62	441.97
Rent	16,300.00	3,000.00	15,303.10	2,696.90	996.90	303.10
Repairs/Maintenance	1,200.00	1,000.00	1,028.24	82.05	171.76	917.95
Telephone/Internet	12,000.00	2,800.00	11,582.25	2,286.96	417.75	513.04
Insurance (GL/Cobra/Surety Bond)	1,600.00	6,500.00	1,126.79	4,714.07	473.21	1,785.93
Licensing Fees/Assessments	5,300.00	550.00	5,388.80	363.43	(88.80)	186.57
Postage	581.00	850.00	71.78	768.30	509.22	81.70
Advertisement	750.00	1,000.00		403.66	750.00	596.34
Outreach	12,000.00	20.00	3,812.41	16.90	8,187.59	3.10
Professional Development – Staff	5,000.00	1,500.00	6,000.00		(1,000.00)	1,500.00
Professional Dues/Services	1,500.00	3,800.00	1,929.15		(429.15)	3,800.00
Auto (Gas/Maint/Insurance)	11,500.00	2,000.00	8,996.35	636.24	2,503.65	1,363.76
Workforce Board Expenses	0.00	600.00		716.85	0.00	(116.85)
Analysis - Survey	5,000.00		5,000.00		0.00	0.00
NIST (Non Salary)	84,883.00	0.00	17,271.50		67,611.50	0.00
Training & Support - Participants*	1,023,194.00		659,933.80		363,260.20	0.00
					0.00	
					0.00	0.00
Misc. Program Income						
SUBTOTAL	**2,183,793.00**	**194,323.00**	**1,693,664.14**	**176,145.25**	**490,128.86**	**18,177.75**

***Training and Support Breakdown**

OJT	75,635.13
CLASSROOM, ITA, BUSINESS SRVS, YOUTH SRVS, TUITION	207,517.04
WORK EXP	252,894.85
SUPPORT	90,012.26
CAA'25	13,193.59
CSBG DIS '26/CAA'26	20,680.93
	659,933.80

FIRST PLANNING DISTRICT
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
TWO-YEAR BUDGET
JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026
REVISION 1 - 06/2026

Total Funds available through June 2027	PROGRAM	Additional PROG Funds	ADMIN	Additional ADMIN Frunds	TOTAL
Total Carryover Funds	959,987.65		144,126.45		1,104,114.10
New Allocation	1,778,226.00		197,582.00		1,975,808.00
AARP CarryOver/New	30,428.96	60,000.00			90,428.96
CAA - SUM '25/26	13,193.59	20,000.00			33,193.59
CSBG		10,000.00			10,000.00
GNO INC RAAMP	12,031.90				12,031.90
GNO IP		75,000.00			75,000.00
NIST (2 YEAR)	198,581.00				198,581.00
GRAND TOTAL	2,992,449.10	165,000.00	341,708.45	0.00	3,499,157.55
	3,157,449.10		341,708.45		3,499,157.55

LINE ITEMS	ANNUAL BUDGET July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026		Change 06/2026 Revision 1		REVISED ANNUAL July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026		RESERVE July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027		ALL YEARS GRAND TOTALS
	PROGRAM	ADMIN	PROGRAM	ADMIN	PROGRAM	ADMIN	PROGRAM	ADMIN	
Staff Salaries/Fringe	906,885.00	69,511.00	59,349.00		906,885.00	69,511.00	217,467.10	60,385.45	1,254,248.55
One Stop Operator	60,000.00				60,000.00	0.00	20,000.00		80,000.00
Salaries Contract - Finance Dir		83,012.00			0.00	83,012.00		74,000.00	157,012.00
Travel/Mileage	5,000.00	2,000.00	1,833.00	92.00	6,833.00	2,092.00			8,925.00
Conference/Meetings	9,450.00	2,550.00	-1,519.00		7,931.00	2,550.00			10,481.00
Unemployment Insurance	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00			0.00
Staff Drug Screen/new hire	250.00	50.00			250.00	50.00			300.00
Accounting Services	0.00	9,000.00			0.00	9,000.00		7,500.00	16,500.00
Supplies	10,900.00	1,480.00	9,651.00		10,900.00	1,480.00	9,651.00		22,031.00
Furniture/Equipment	10,500.00	3,100.00			10,500.00	3,100.00			13,600.00
Rent	16,300.00	3,000.00			16,300.00	3,000.00	5,000.00	1,000.00	25,300.00
Repairs/Maintenance	1,200.00	1,000.00			1,200.00	1,000.00			2,200.00
Telephone/Internet	12,000.00	2,800.00			12,000.00	2,800.00	6,000.00	1,500.00	22,300.00
Insurance (GL/Cobra/Surety Bond)	1,600.00	6,500.00			1,600.00	6,500.00		3,000.00	11,100.00
Licensing Fees/Assessments	5,300.00	550.00	89.00		5,389.00	550.00			5,939.00
Postage	581.00	850.00			581.00	850.00			1,431.00
Advertisement	750.00	1,000.00			750.00	1,000.00			1,750.00
Outreach	12,000.00	20.00			12,000.00	20.00			12,020.00
Professional Development – Staff	5,000.00	1,500.00	1,000.00	-117.00	6,000.00	1,383.00	2,000.00		9,383.00
Professional Dues/Services	1,500.00	3,800.00	430.00		1,930.00	3,800.00			5,730.00
Auto (Gas/Maint/Insurance)	11,500.00	2,000.00	-1,833.00	-92.00	9,667.00	1,908.00	3,500.00		15,075.00
Workforce Board Expenses	0.00	600.00		117.00	0.00	717.00			717.00
Survey/Analysis	5,000.00				5,000.00	0.00			5,000.00
NIST (1ST YEAR)	84,883.00				84,883.00	0.00	28,183.00		113,066.00
					0.00				0.00
Training & Support - Participants*	**1,023,194.00**		**96,000.00**		1,023,194.00	0.00	**681,855.00**		1,705,049.00
									0.00
									0.00
SUBTOTAL	**2,183,793.00**	**194,323.00**	**165,000.00**	**0.00**	**2,183,793.00**	**194,323.00**	**973,656.10**	**147,385.45**	**3,499,157.55**
	103,831.00		3,157,449.10	341,708.45					

Sumbitted By:

Suzanne Torregano, WDB Executive Director

Approved by the Workforce Development Board

Mindy Nunez Airhart, Chairperson

Date

FIRST PLANNING DISTRICT
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
TWO-YEAR BUDGET
JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2028

Total Funds available through June 2028	PROGRAM	Additional PROG Funds	ADMIN	Additional ADMIN Frunds	TOTAL
Total Carryover Funds	1,186,246.53		165,563.20		1,351,809.73
New Allocation 2026-2028	1,558,004.40		173,111.60		1,731,116.00
AARP New/Carry Over	34,223.68				34,223.68
GNOIP	60,000.00				60,000.00
CSBG DISC Carry Over	8,782.42				8,782.42
NIST (2nd YEAR)	160,418.10				160,418.10
GRAND TOTAL	3,007,675.13	0.00	338,674.80	0.00	3,346,349.93
	3,007,675.13		338,674.80		3,346,349.93

LINE ITEMS	ANNUAL BUDGET July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027				RESERVE July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2028		ALL YEARS GRAND TOTALS
	PROGRAM	ADMIN	PROGRAM	ADMIN	PROGRAM	ADMIN	
Staff Salaries/Fringe	818,842.25	71,961.00			129,073.59	69,184.80	1,089,061.64
One Stop Operator	60,000.00						60,000.00
Salaries Contract - Finance Dir		85,727.00				70,000.00	155,727.00
Travel/Mileage	8,100.00	3,020.00					11,120.00
Conference/Meetings	10,301.29	2,550.00					12,851.29
Unemployment Insurance	0.00	0.00					0.00
Staff Drug Screen/new hire	250.00	50.00					300.00
Accounting Services	0.00	9,000.00					9,000.00
Supplies	9,250.00	1,480.00					10,730.00
Furniture/Equipment	10,500.00	3,100.00					13,600.00
Rent	16,300.00	3,000.00					19,300.00
Repairs/Maintenance	1,200.00	1,000.00					2,200.00
Telephone/Internet	12,000.00	2,800.00					14,800.00
Insurance (GL/Cobra/Surety Bond)	1,600.00	6,500.00					8,100.00
Licensing Fees/Assessments	5,500.00	550.00					6,050.00
Postage	581.00	850.00					1,431.00
Advertisement	750.00	1,000.00					1,750.00
Outreach	11,750.00	0.00					11,750.00
Professional Development – Staff	6,500.00	1,402.00					7,902.00
Professional Dues/Services	3,000.00	3,800.00					6,800.00
Auto (Gas/Maint/Insurance)	12,600.00	1,000.00					13,600.00
Workforce Board Expenses	0.00	700.00					700.00
Survey/Analysis	5,000.00						5,000.00
NIST (2ndT YEAR)	95,795.00						95,795.00
Training & Support - Participants*	1,043,782.00				745,000.00		1,788,782.00
							0.00
Misc. Program Income							0.00
SUBTOTAL	2,133,601.54	199,490.00	0.00	0.00	874,073.59	139,184.80	3,346,349.93

Sumbitted By:

Suzanne Torregano, WDB Executive Director

Concurrence of:

President Michael Cooper, CEO to the Board

Approved by the Workforce Development Board

Mindy Airhart, Chairperson

Date

ONE-STOP OPERATOR CONTRACT EXTENSION
JULY 29, 2026, Board Meeting

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Review progress of OSO year 1 contract and recommend approval of year 2 contract extension.

Year 1 performance summary:

We have been pleased with the overall performance of the OSO, Castles of Dreams LLC, during this program period. The OSO has continued to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and overall professionalism expected by the First Planning District's Local Workforce Development Board-Tri Parish Works. The OSO has a very lengthy statement of work in which to perform. Here is a summary of what has been accomplished in Year 1:

- The OSO has maintained key relationships with workforce partners and community-based organizations across all three parishes as well as has an in-depth knowledge of all partner programs, which helps TPW in the midst of the state's one board consolidation and One Door Approach. This knowledge and relationships have put us in a good position to be able to deliver fully on the One Door Model, once final implementation is scheduled.
- The OSO has maintained quarterly meetings with partners and community-based organizations which includes the cross training of all partners, information sharing among partners as well as serving as the point of contact with partners agencies
- Works, when needed, with our Youth Director, as a thought partner on youth service activities
- OSO has worked alongside the ED over the past year as follows:
    - Development of communication strategies with Louisiana Works and State Legislators in relation to Single State Board legislation
    - Actively following legislation in Louisiana as well as at the Federal level
    - Will actively participate on one of the state's transition strike teams allowing his invaluable knowledge to assist the state in coordinating a successful transition of all workforce development boards.

Policy Updated
July 29, 2026

As a result of the previous monitoring, updates were made to the following policies:

1. Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation – Finance Manager's annual contract: $85,727.00. Insurance costs went up again this year.
2. Financial Management 106-16:
   a. Made OMB updates, ensured associated dollar references were updated,
3. Procurement Policy 107-16:
   a. Had to clean up some Title references, Uniform Administrative Requirement references, ensured that the equipment procurement amount was updated to $10,000
   b. Added a definition for a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement since our Finance Manager's contract is a CEA
   c. Cleaned up dollar figures under small purchases and ensured there was a notation to show that all purchases over $10,000 must receive prior written approval.
4. Personnel Policy 105-16:
   a. Monitoring noted that we did not address relocation within our personnel policy We've included the following sentence.

      Employee relocation costs, although allowable under 2 CFR § 200.464, are prohibited by Local Workforce Development Board 10.

Recommendation:

ED recommends that all policies and contracts be approved for the PY 26-27.

First Planning District
WORKFORCE
Development Board

FISCAL YEAR REVIEW

July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

PREPARED BY: SUZANNE TORREGANO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JULY 29, 2026

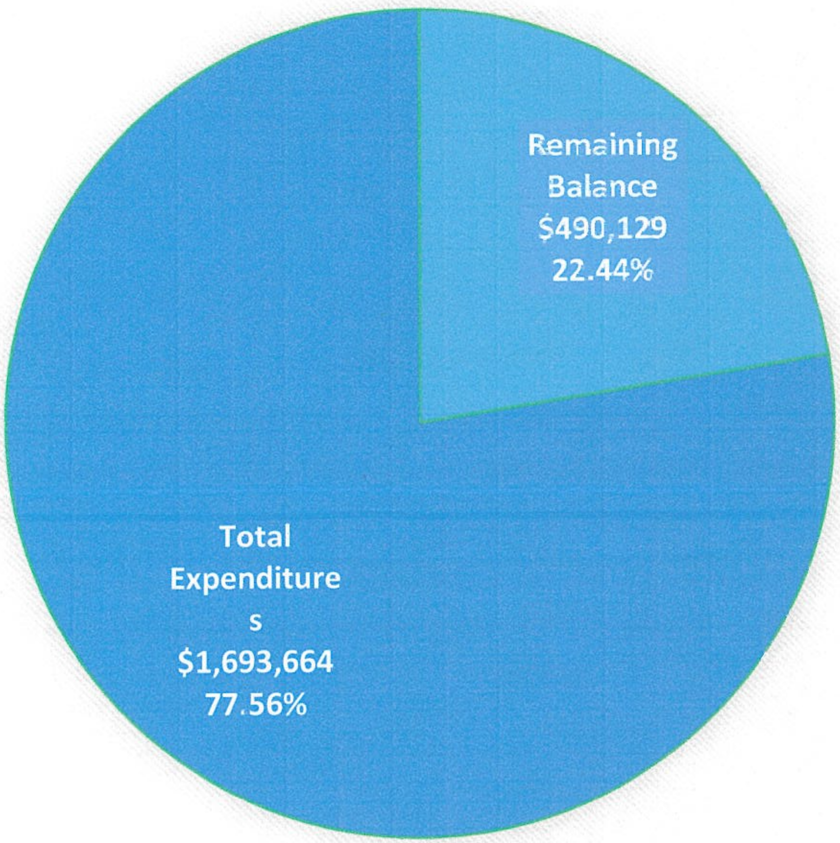
Comparison of Last Two Fiscal Years Overall Budgets

	2024/2025	2025/2026
Annual Budget	$2,329,136	$2,378,116
Total Expenditures	$1,932,586 83%	$1,869,810 79%
Training & Support Expenditures	$775,876 33.31% of budget 40.14% of expenditures	$659,934 27.75% of budget 35.29% of expenditures

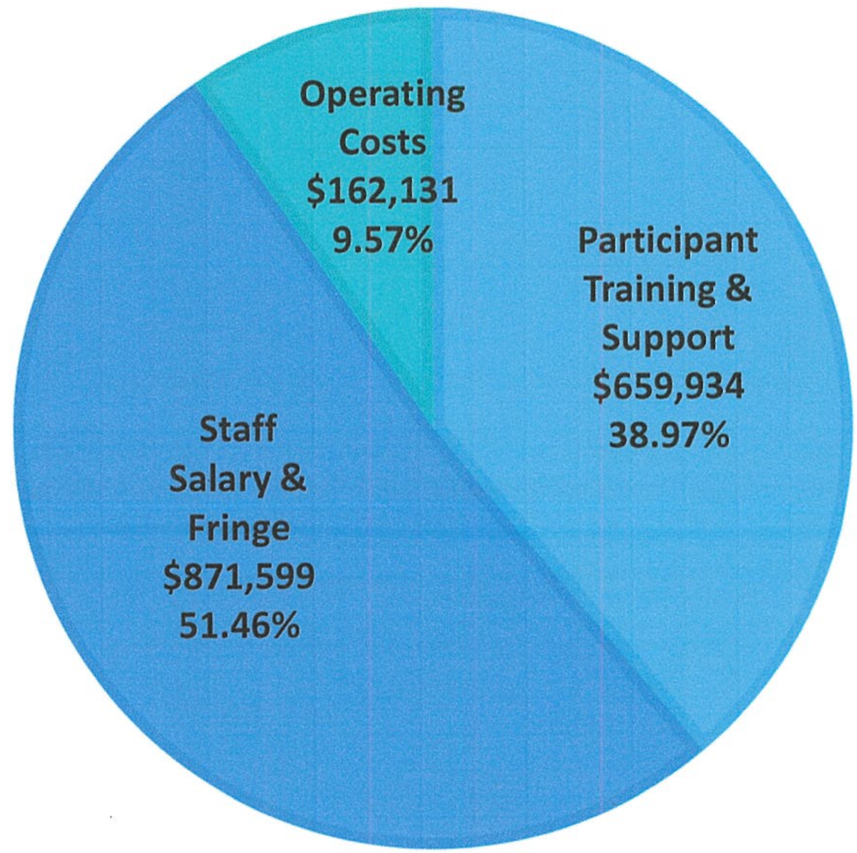
BUDGET vs. EXPENDITURES

July 2025 through June 2026 - WIOA PROGRAM FUNDS

Annual Budget: $2,183,793



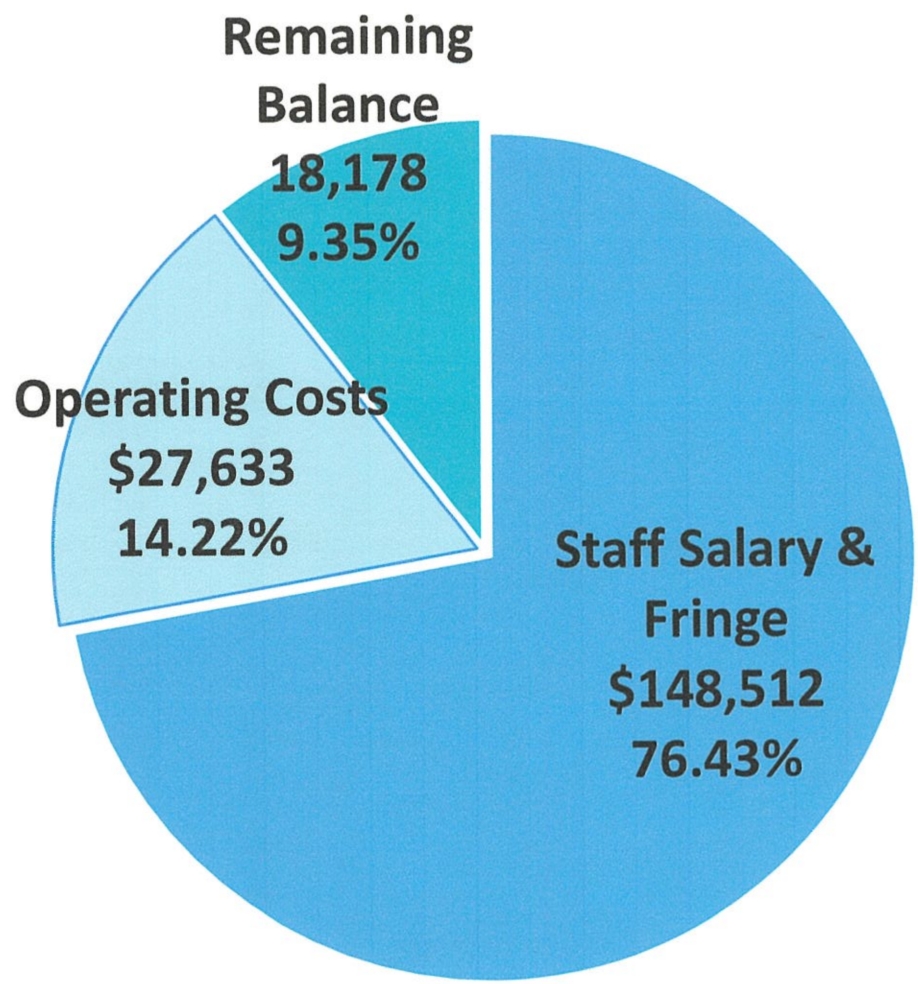
BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURES



BUDGET vs. EXPENDITURES

July 2025 through June 2026 - Administrative Funds

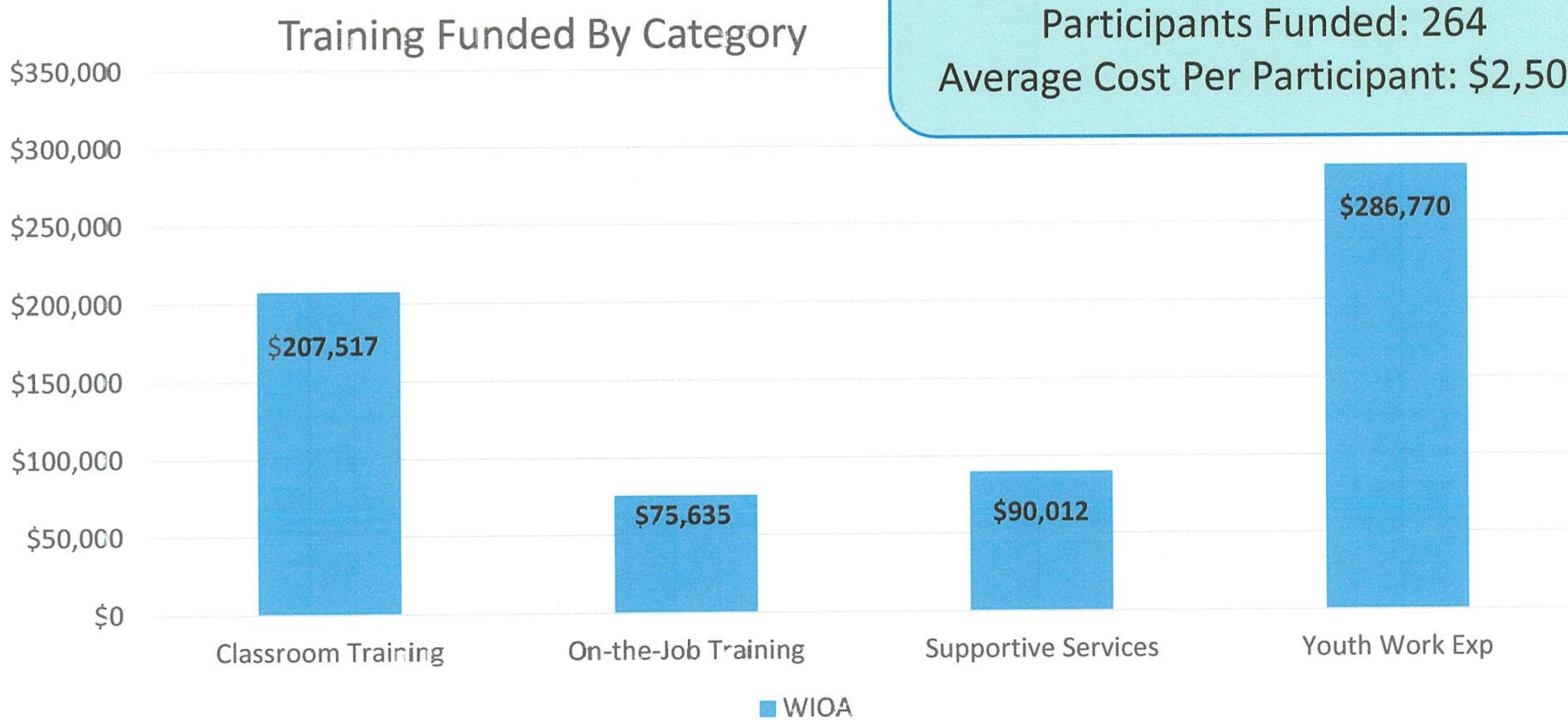
Annual Budget: $194,323



TRAINING EXPENDITURES BY FUNDING CATEGORIES

July 2025 through June 2026

Annual Budget: $1,023,194
Total Expenditures: $659,934
Participants Funded: 264
Average Cost Per Participant: $2,500

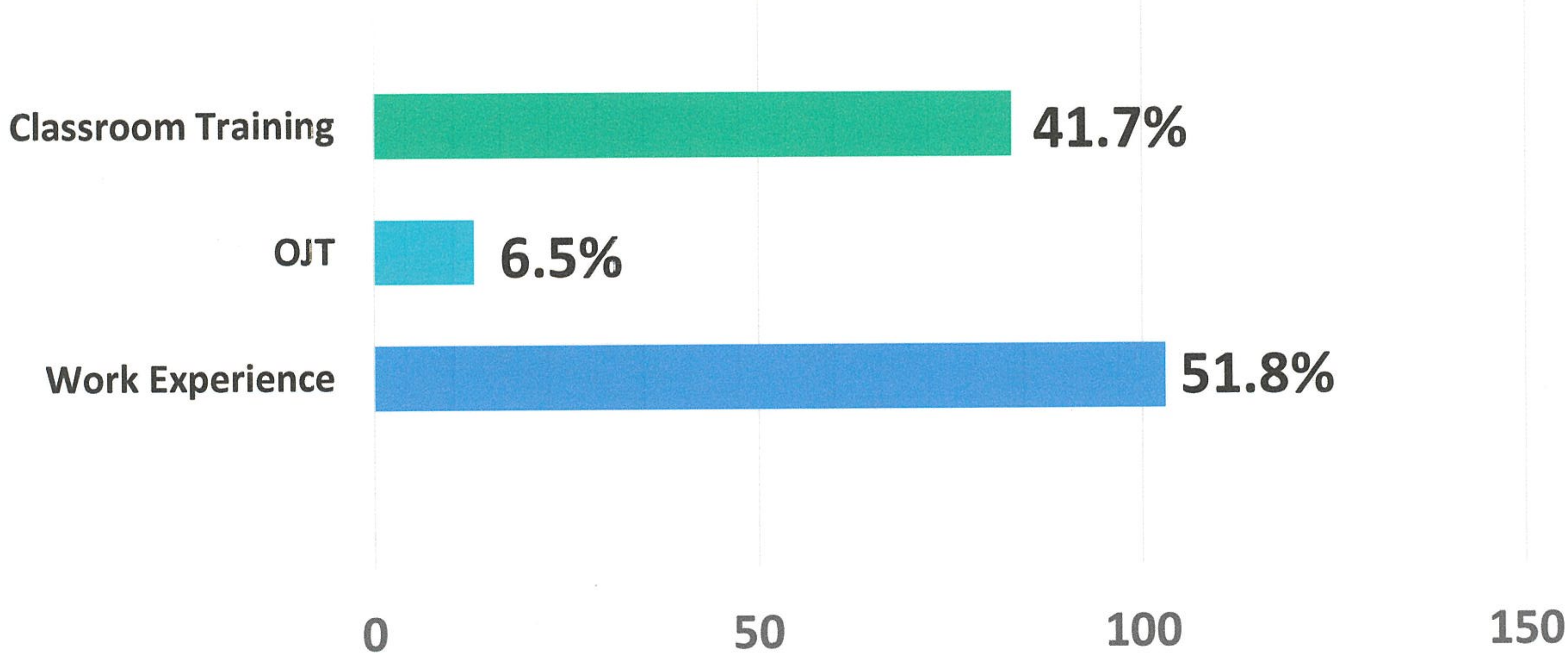


TPW CENTER TRAFFIC

Fiscal Year	Calls	Appointments	Total Activities
PY20	4001	359	5756
PY21	4054	1937	7720
PY22	6259	2751	9861
PY23	6846	3660	11260
PY24	5432	4449	12136
PY25	5318	3829	9793

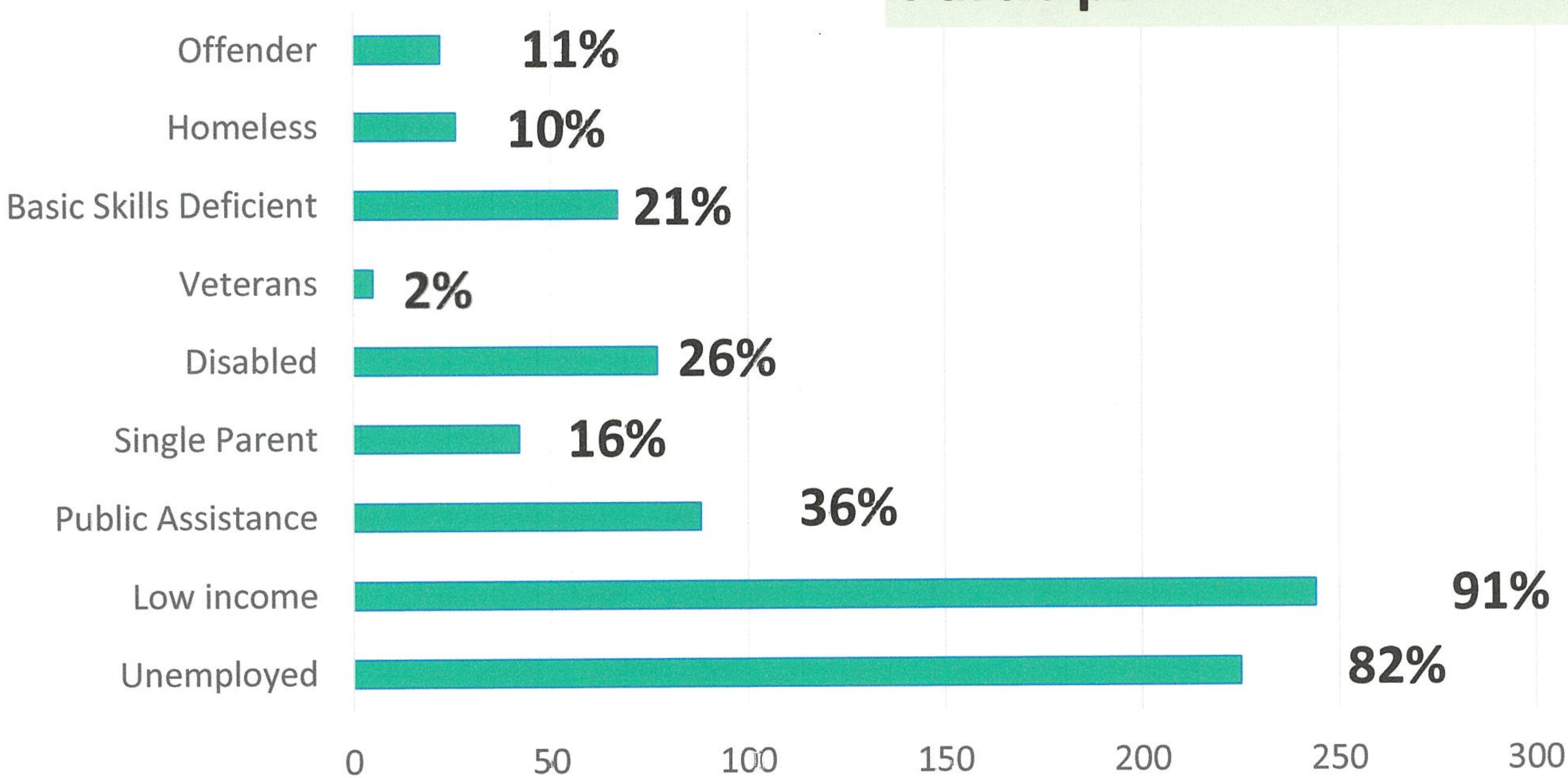
INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SERVICES

Provided Services to 1,315 individuals & 894 employer services in 2025-2026
Enrolled 264 individuals in WIOA
199 participants in Training Activity



PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

Based on Total Participants Enrolled: 264



PERFORMANCE METRICS

PY24 FINAL	ADULT		DISLOCATED WORKER		YOUTH	
	Negotiated Range	Actual	Negotiated Range	Actual	Negotiated Range	Actual
Employed 2nd Quarter After Exit	67.7% - 75.2%	77.0%	66.6% - 74.0%	75.0%	72.5% - 80.5%	76.4%
Employed 4th Quarter After Exit	60.3% - 67.0%	69.4%	58.5% - 65.0%	80.0%	64.8% - 72.0%	82.0%
Median Earnings (Quarterly)	$8,280 - $9,200	$7,745.00	$7,843 - $8,714	$9,964.50	$4,815 - $5,350	$4,854.50
Earned Credential	77.4% - 86.0%	88.2%	79.2% - 88.0%	85.00%	52.2% - 58.0%	78.30%
Skills Gained During Training	72.0% - 80.0%	90.0%	71.8% - 79.8%	100.00%	46.1% - 51.2%	74.20%

Highlights from the Year

- Awarded $198,581.38 in 2025-NIST-RAMPS-01 grant for Tri Parish Cybersecurity Workforce & Talent Pipeline Initiative submission, effective 10/01/2025 – 9/30/2027. Completed phase I (comprehensive workforce analysis) and will initiate hosting convenings Aug-Dec for Phase II (strategy development - employer driven initiatives) *see poster

- Successfully completed second and final Career Expo for the 2-year GNO RAAMP grant; with focus on Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing; more than doubled attendance from previous year, over 400 attendees, employers & community partners.

- Continued and expanded Summer Youth Programming in all three parishes; Multi-year CDBG and CSBG grant recipient.

- Entered into a Community of Practice, CoP, format with AARP grant in a one-year extension; now one of four remaining local programs. Participating in first CoP conference this coming Sept in Wash DC.

- Provided 894 individual services to a total of 243 different businesses in our three-parish region this past PY.

- Continued growth and positive gains in support and training dollars in St Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. Sharing space at the Community Center in Belle Chase.

- Participated in 18 regional Job Fairs and Hiring Events, hosted 8 of them. A third of those outside St. Tammany Parish; 3 in St Bernard, 1 in Plaquemines & 2 in Orleans.

Highlights from the Year

- Re-initiated partnering with United Way of Southeast Louisiana on the RETURN reentry program; applied for grants with them to enable us to expand the support of this population

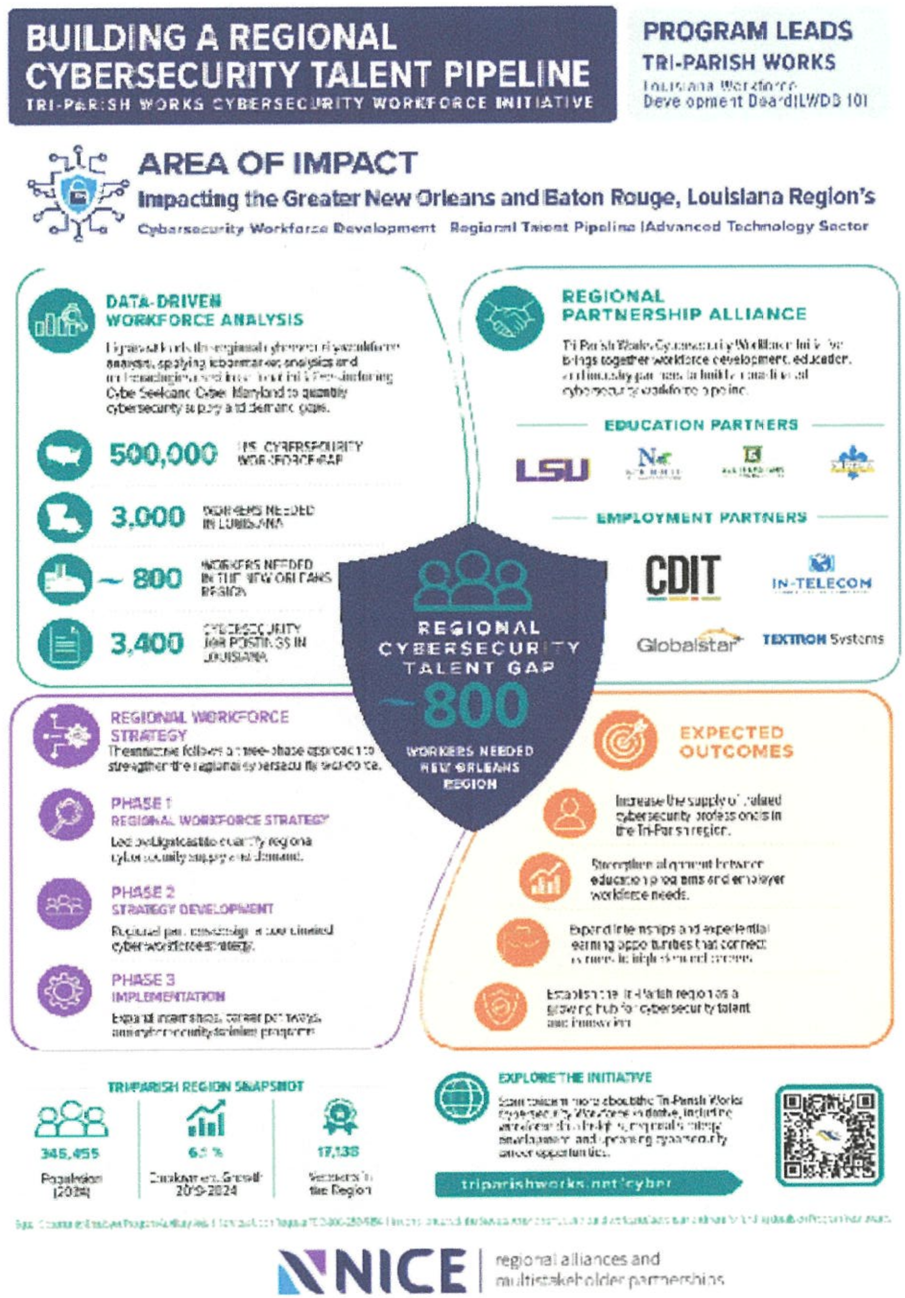
- This year we produced another successful graduate of 2026 Leadership St. Bernard: Chervonder Encalade

- Continue to partner in regional Economic Development groups in Sector Partnerships in *Aerospace & Advanced Technology; Construction & Logistics; Healthcare*

- Had a 5.5% increase PY25 over PY24 in Job Orders submitted in HiRE within the Tri Parish region

- Participated in the Textron Immersion Session, held a Textron employer specific job fair, have supported ongoing work with Textron in Monthly Roundtables, hosted meetings with LA Works on the additional programs that are available

- Received additional CSBG funding we have utilized in creating a one-week career exploration mini-camp to be beta tested through PY26



NIST NICE Cybersecurity Poster

2026 – 2027 Strategy Beginning to take a look forward

* ED has been appointed to the Assessment & Evaluation Strike Team for the State Transition.

* TPW has been asked to pilot a new career assessment program by Secretary Schowen and Asst Secretary Padilla.

* We are currently strategizing on how to increase our % of funding that goes towards training and supportive services; We will look at more IWTP and OJT options and collaborations with our Community Colleges.

* Expand collaboration with our K-12 and Economic Development partners to ensure we develop programs that will expose more youth to the in-demand industries within our region and ensure we are at the table during discussions with local businesses.

* Look to position TPW as a leader during the state transition period.

* Partner on more grant applications ensuring diversification of funding