



## Workforce Development Department

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The proposed resolution authorizes approval of an emergency appropriation accepting the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Rapid Response Grant in the amount of \$440,000 to provide targeted workforce services and reemployment strategies in response to recent workforce dislocation events impacting the region.

The grant will support employment and training services for 25 dislocated workers impacted by six separate layoff events:

- Smurfit Westrock- Manufacturing Industry
- NSI Industries/Remke Industries- Manufacturing Industry
- Capital One- Business and Financial Services
- Walgreens- Retail, Pharmacy, and Healthcare Services
- Discover Financial Services- Professional Services
- Consolidated Hospital Supplies- Hospitality and Distribution Services

The grant also supports expanding access to digital literacy and workforce readiness services for an additional 125 residents through the Digital Skills Bootcamp initiative. The Digital Skills Bootcamp will utilize the Northstar Digital Literacy Curriculum and assessment platform to provide participants with industry-recognized foundational digital skill development, including computer basics, internet usage, email communication, workplace technology, and digital employability skills. The initiative is intended to strengthen workforce participation, improve access to training and employment opportunities, and reduce digital barriers for residents and impacted workers.

The grant provides funding to support personnel and contingent worker expenses necessary to administer and coordinate grant activities, funding to support tuition and training wages, and supportive services designed to reduce barriers to participation including laptop distribution.