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Budget Action description:

Career Bridge

This green sheet would add \$200,000 to the Human Services Department (HSD) for Career Bridge. The add would allow HSD to contract with the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle (Urban League) to allow expansion of their Career Bridge initiative to serve more men and expand to serve women in Seattle that have multiple barriers to employment, including a criminal history. The \$200,000 amount was determined in consultation with the Urban League and HSD as the appropriate amount needed to fund the Urban League’s planned expansion of services at this time.

Career Bridge is an initiative between the Urban League, the City’s Human Services Department (HSD), Office of Economic Development (OED) and community partners. Career Bridge works with individuals who have multiple barriers to economic stability.

Career Bridge participants receive a two week job readiness training program, job search assistance, case management, individualized support services such as counseling and opportunities for peer support and mentorship. Participants are also assisted with the supportive services that enable individuals to seek employment, such as housing, work clothing, and driver’s license requirements.

Career Bridge began as a pilot in 2013. In 2014, the City contracted with the Urban League to assume management and oversight of the Career Bridge. The first three cohorts enrolled in 2014. An evaluation of Career Bridge conducted by MEF in 2015 found strong employment outcomes with 81% of participants from the first three cohorts finding employment. The evaluation is available on the Office of City Auditor website <http://www.seattle.gov/city-auditor/publications-and-reports/2015-reports>).

Strong employment outcomes have continued with subsequent cohorts. Career Bridge participants have a 78% job placement rate with another 11% entering training or education. Participants had a 79% retention rate after six months. Average wages are \$12.05/hour. Career Bridge has started one cohort with women participants. They are also working to expand job opportunities and job promotional opportunities.

Funding for Career Bridge was \$400,000 in 2014 and the same amount in 2015. This additional \$200,000 would allow Career Bridge to serve additional participants, particularly women and individuals over the age of 18.

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Budget Action Transactions

Budget Action Title: Add \$200,000 GSF to HSD for Career Bridge

#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BCL or Revenue Source	Summit Code	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Increase GSF support to HSD for Career Bridge				FG	Human Services Operating Fund	Q5971620	00100	2016		\$200,000
2	Increase revenue to HSD for Career Bridge				HSD	General Subfund Support	587001	16200	2016	\$200,000	
3	Increase HSD appropriation for Career Bridge				HSD	Community Support and Assistance	H30ET	16200	2016		\$200,000