



## *Vancouver Targeted Workforce Training*

**1. Purpose:**

Funding is provided to contract with a nonprofit organization to establish a workforce pilot program with Vancouver School District. The pilot is intended to support recruitment and hiring for the district’s school bus driver and paraeducator positions.

**2. Description of services provided:**

Partners in Careers (PIC) is a nonprofit organization based in Vancouver, WA that supports specialized job training and employment services to support create self-sufficiency through connecting job seekers to workforce skill trainings and jobs. PIC was selected as the contractor to expand Vancouver School District’s candidate pool for school bus drivers and paraeducators.

**3. Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

The proviso required that OSPI contract with a nonprofit that was based in Vancouver, with the explicit experience of assisting individuals with job training and placement. Vancouver School District was the named pilot site.

**Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:**

- Number of School Districts: 1
- Number of Schools: N/A
- Number of Students: N/A
- Number of Educators: N/A
- Other: 1

**4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

No

**5. State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$468,000	\$468,000



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## 6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

Fiscal Year	Other
FY23	1

## 7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

This pilot was first established in FY23 and was implemented in alignment with the directed proviso language.

## 8. Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:

Through this pilot program, Partners in Careers engaged in recruitment and outreach efforts to support training opportunities, job readiness, and employment. Outreach efforts included school district job fairs, school community resource fairs, and presentations at community events and organizations to bring awareness to career opportunities and training programs. Candidates enrolled in programs were hired by Vancouver School District as bus drivers. Additionally, individuals were hired as paraprofessionals, received pending offers as substitutes, and individuals with full-time positions secured for the following school year. Through these Vancouver School District was required to submit a report to the legislature with the results of the workforce pilot program and recommendations for expanding the program.

## 9. Major challenges faced by the program:

This contract was executed in December, and recruitment, training, and hiring events occurred between December 1 and June 30, 2023. Funding for this pilot concluded in June 2023, however recruitment and hiring for these positions remain a critical need for school districts across the state.

## 10. Future opportunities:

Continued investment in specialized job training programs in service to multiple school districts will help support properly trained employees in high-need positions for school districts.

## 11. Statutory and/or budget language:

\$468,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 is provided solely for the office to contract with a nonprofit organization to establish a workforce pilot program with the Vancouver school district that provides targeted training to expand the school district's candidate pool for school bus drivers and paraeducators. The nonprofit



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organization must be based in Vancouver, Washington and must have experience assisting individuals in becoming economically self-sufficient by providing resources, training, and job placement opportunities. By June 30, 2023, the office will collaborate with the nonprofit organization and the Vancouver school district to submit a report to the legislature with results of the workforce pilot program and recommendations for expanding the program.

## **12. Other relevant information:**

N/A

## **13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

[preliminaryfy23state-fundedprovisograntawardsupdated-42823.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

## **14. Program Contact Information:**

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