

Senate Bill 24 – Key Update 81st Session - 2021 Nevada Legislature

Background

The WINN Fund is managed by the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) to address industry business needs by creating, customizing or expanding workforce training programs that will impart the skills needed by employers. The overarching purpose of the WINN fund is to support Nevada's economic development through implementation of workforce development programs that prioritize the recruitment, assessment and training of a highly skilled workforce. This fund makes critical strategic investments in industry partnerships to ensure that new and existing businesses in Nevada's target sectors will be able to recruit and retain qualified employees. The Fund has made nearly \$11 million in investments in 19 projects in five critical sectors: Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare, Technology, Mining and Logistics.

The intent, statutes and code governing the WINN Fund all jointly express the priority of considering applications with businesses that provide high-skill and high-wage jobs to residents of Nevada. Project applications are accepted year-round, and must align with the State's Economic Development Plan and the WIOA Unified State Plan to prioritize workforce shortages identified therein. However, the lack of a baseline relative to this priority created an ambiguous construct that has been problematic in terms of administration, which required legislative clarity that came in the form of SB24.

With the passage of SB 24, GOED's Board is tasked with providing the necessary context by defining high-skill and high-wage jobs in accordance with Section 1: Item 6 (a). The definition will provide the baseline requirement for applicants that will be posted on the WINN site for transparency and will be included in the funding pre-application and application preface.

Staff Recommendation

High-wage may be defined as: jobs paying 85% or more of the average wage for the occupation benefitting from the application, but not less than \$17 per hour

High-skill may be defined as: positions requiring education or training beyond a high school diploma

Context

Current Average Wage for Job Outcomes Reported following WINN-Funded training is \$20.03

Average Hourly Wage for all occupations in Nevada is \$24.28

Median Hourly wage for all occupations in Nevada is \$18.52

Average Household Size in Nevada is 2.67

Households with two earners with children under 6 is 63.9%

Households with two earners with children between 6 and 17 is 71.9%

Living Wage (MIT) for Household with 2 Working Adults and one child is \$33,093 or \$15.91/ hour

Medicaid eligibility for household of 3 when household earnings are less than \$29,207 (\$14.04)

SNAP eligibility for household of 3 when household earnings are less than \$28,548 (\$13.73)