

**10 Year Statewide Strategic Plan  
Grow Local Talent Work Group - Meeting 4  
April 28, 2021; 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm  
Via Zoom Meeting**

**Meeting Objectives:**

- **Identify priority projects to be completed in the next 6-8 months**

**Meeting Attendees:**

- Jen Fullmer
- Diana Doiron
- Erica Watson
- Colleen Quint
- Jason Judd
- Ben Gilman
- Janet Sortor
- Dwight Littlefield
- Rosa Redonnett
- Colleen Hilton
- Martha Bentley
- Rajesh Masilamani Anand, FEMA
- Kelsey MacKinnon, DECD Staff

**Notes:**

**Item 1: Introductions and Agenda**

- **Goals for today:**
  - Based on the work being done by the smaller groups, identify short-term priorities for this group to work on over the next 6-8 months
  - Get feedback around federal stimulus dollars so this group's input can be shared with State decision makers. Also consider the federal dollars that won't run through the State but will be available for projects.

**Item 2: Report Outs from Smaller Groups**

**A1:**

- **Updates:**
  - Ana Hicks from the Children's Cabinet participated in meeting – Children's Cabinet is interested in career and internship opportunities for at-risk youth.
  - Updated spreadsheet to expand upon resources available for high school students.
  - Identified areas of overlap with other subgroups:
    - A2 around web portal piece
    - A3 and A4 around microcredentialing and aligning resources
  - Also want to elevate the issue of education as a workforce development priority, including childcare workforce development.
    - What are the internship and credentialing opportunities to help people see childcare/early childhood education as a possible career path?

**A2:** Group will arrange to meet before our next meeting.

**A3:**

- **Updates:**
  - Focused on skills relating to digital economy
  - Spreadsheet shows existing work in this area
    - Some of the work can be done without additional information (e.g., surveying training providers and employers to bring all the information together), but the warehousing/central database piece will require additional funds beyond the funding that DOE already has for its longitudinal data work.
  - Group will continue bridging this down further into actionable, time driven steps.

**A4:**

- **Updates:**
  - Since A4 overlaps with the NGA grant work, would like additional information on what's happening there to ensure efforts aren't being duplicated. Can also help identify if this group can fill in gaps that aren't being covered by the NGA grant.

**A5/A6:**

- **Updates:**
  - Working on refining initial spreadsheet draft.
  - First priority is getting folks back to work. What can we accomplish in the next 6 months? What will take more time?
  - Lots of overlap with active legislative bills addressing early childcare workforce (increasing wages and pathways in early childhood careers)
  - Todd Landry's office is also doing work around on how funding should be spent with early childcare providers.
  - Ana Hicks & Todd Landry, and Tammy Ranger & Emily Doughty from DOE are important to loop into our conversations – will be guests in our next meeting.
    - Overlap with this group and the Children's Cabinets efforts around wages and increasing the accessibility/affordability of childcare.
    - Overlap with DOE around attracting people into the childcare profession, the Ed Tech to teacher pipeline, and diversifying the workforce.
  - President Biden's American Families Plan could also connect into this work.
  - Focused on what already exists that can be built upon/expanded in the near term, rather than coming up with new initiatives.

**Item 3: ARP Funding Prioritization/Recommendations, Overall Priority Projects**

**Joint Funding Priorities Discussion:**

- **A1:**
  1. Creating infrastructure via microcredentials, outreach and on-the-ground support to raise awareness, build cross-program connections and create on-ramps for workforce development
  2. Elevate three core workforce areas (healthcare, clean energy and education) as critical for focused attention
  3. Expand Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) efforts to communities (especially rural and LMI communities) and develop models for sustaining support for paid and credit-bearing internships for high school students, especially those who are at-risk
- **A5/A6:**

1. Increase educator compensation
  - Tied to disconnect between early childhood educators and K12 educators. Thinking about specific steps through TEACH or related program to increase wages for early child care workers to get more people to transition into that industry.
2. Increase accessibility & quality of childcare
  - Expanding grant opportunities to individual child care/family centers
  - Todd Landry working on this – expanding subsidies, and other stabilization funding directly toward child care centers

➤ **A4:**

1. Articulating the credentialing pathways – help that work continue past the grant cycle they're in – short term priority for getting people back to work
  - Pull together with A1 credentialing suggestion – prioritize certain sectors within that?
2. Tap into Maine Spark/Adult Promise navigator network – how can those folks continue to support today's workers?
  - Tapping into this network could be a tactic for the pathway pieces – to help get out the information and connect workers to training/upskilling opportunities.
3. Evaluating credentialing pathways for new Mainers – short term priority
  - LD 149 is connected – if it's passed, how do we help with the implementation?
- Other goal but not prioritized for this funding: Rebranding marketing pilot for Maine's public workforce system
  - Maine Spark/Adult Promise already has campaign – could work to align messaging and campaigns with NGA grant

➤ **A2:**

- Lower priority – there are existing systems available, can hold for now

➤ **A3:**

- Need to figure out what data resources already exist and the most cost-effective way to connect them
- Not key priority for this funding

#### **Item 4: Next Steps**

- Martha will check in with Chris and Kim before asking smaller groups to meet again, unless there are unresolved pieces within the subgroup.
- Continue to hold May meeting slot, pending confirmation from Chris, Kim, and Martha on whether we will need to reconvene sooner.