

**2013 - 2014 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent**

**Approved**

Tab	Action	Option	Version
120	1	A	1

**Budget Action Title:** Request for additional information on the Career Bridge program

**Councilmembers:** Burgess; Clark; Conlin

**Staff Analyst:** Sara Belz

**Budget Committee Vote:**

Date	Result	SB	BH	TR	RC	TB	NL	JG	SC	MO
11/09/2012	Pass 9-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**Statement of Legislative Intent:**

The Office of Economic Development (OED) and the Human Services Department (HSD) are requested to provide the Council with additional information about the Career Bridge program before the delivery of the 2014 Proposed Budget. The content of OED’s response to this Statement of Legislative Intent will help inform the Council’s decision about whether to provide ongoing funding to the Career Bridge program.

By February 1, 2013, OED and HSD are requested to deliver the following to the Council’s Committee on Economic Resiliency and Regional Relations (CERRR):

- A detailed description of the Career Bridge program, including its proposed organizational design and service delivery models.
- Information about how the framework for Career Bridge was shaped by existing research and established best practices related to the provision of workforce development services for extremely disadvantaged individuals. If the program’s design is informed primarily by innovation, a description of any influential theories or local experiences should be provided.
- Expected timelines for any competitive processes that would be initiated in 2013 or 2014 to select contractual program partners. A list of any existing program partners and information about how they were selected should also be provided.

By July 1, 2013, OED and HSD, in coordination with the Office of the City Auditor (Auditor), are requested to deliver the following to CERRR:

- A detailed annual reporting plan that identifies specific, measurable, target program outcomes, such as the numbers of individuals expected to annually enroll in Career Bridge, complete education and job readiness training, and be placed in a post-secondary instructional program or stable employment. Outcomes related to the jobs obtained by program participants (e.g. position type, wages, benefits, length of time in job) should also be

identified. In addition, the reporting plan should include information about how target program outcomes were identified and, if applicable, how they compare to the outcomes associated with employment and training programs serving similar populations in other jurisdictions.

- A preliminary report on Career Bridge outcomes using data collected from the first three cohorts of program participants.
- Estimates of Career Bridge's fixed and scalable costs and information about how potential changes to the City's annual CDBG allocations could impact the program's scope and capacity.

A companion green sheet (120-2-A-1) would add \$50,000 in General Subfund (GSF) support to the Auditor's Performance Evaluation Program in 2013 and 2014 for a comprehensive evaluation of Career Bridge's effectiveness in moving participants into employment training or steady jobs. Consistent with that green sheet, the independent consultant selected by the Auditor to complete the evaluation would also be tasked with assisting OED and HSD with the work described above that would be due to CERRR by July 1, 2013.

***Background:***

Career Bridge would provide extremely disadvantaged individuals facing multiple barriers to employment with access to mentoring support, education and job readiness training, and the wrap-around social services they need (e.g., housing, childcare, transportation) to succeed as students and in the workforce. The population groups that Career Bridge would seek to assist include low-income men of color, the previously incarcerated, and limited English speakers. Career Bridge is intended to serve as a precursor and supplement to the employment training and placement services the Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI) supports for jobless and underemployed adults. Together with OED and HSD, SJI would be a critical partner in developing and implementing Career Bridge over the next two years.

The Proposed Budget provides \$210,000 for Career Bridge in 2013 and \$800,000 in 2014. The 2013 funding includes \$150,000 GSF from OED's 2013 contract with SJI and \$60,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that would be allocated through HSD. In 2014, a total of \$800,000 in HSD CDBG funding is proposed.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):** Economic Resiliency and Regional Relations

**Date Due to Council:** February 1, 2013 and July 1, 2013