



Human Services

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Dear House Public and Behavioral Health and Human Services Committee,

I operate Eagle County's Employment First program, and I'm writing to you regarding House Bill 23-1124, which concerns the continuation of funding for Supportive Services for Employment First participants. Small and medium-sized counties like ourselves typically struggle with a lack of resources in the community to address many of the needs our job-seeking customers have, so in 2021 when last we received this much needed funding, it was instrumental to the success of many of our customers. With the additional funding for supportive services, we were able to help our clients succeed in getting the jobs that they were applying for in ways we could have not been able to do without these funds. Were this House Bill to be approved and we were to get new funding, we'd be able to continue those successes and assist those we serve in material and unique ways.

Through the previous House Bill, Eagle County was awarded a total of \$20,000 in additional supportive services. Here are a few examples of what Eagle County did with our portion of this funding in the 2021-2022 federal fiscal year;

- Paid for executive coaching sessions for a participant which resulted in her securing a job leading one of our local nonprofits.
- Purchased refurbished laptops for customers, which enabled them to attend classes and get a job in their field, find and complete artistic contracting work, and start their own business.
- Purchased tools for customers, enabling them to start jobs in construction and related fields where employees are expected to provide their own tools.
- Paid for a number of professional licenses, certifications, and memberships, which enabled customers to work in regulated fields in industries such as education and healthcare, as well as securing higher paid positions in industries such as hospitality.
- Repaired vehicles for participants who had recently started new jobs, keeping them in positions they were in danger of losing.

In all, with the funds from the previous House Bill we were able to assist about 30 people with services that other programs in our community are generally unable to help with. We saw great results in helping people achieve their employment goals and with renewed funding, we would do so again.

Sincerely,

Karl Jolliff
Employment First Coordinator
Eagle County Department of Human Services