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Harold Christ, Chair
Pinal County Workforce Development Board

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Mike Goodman, Chair
Pinal County Board of Supervisors

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County Manager

October 2024

Request to Transfer Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funds

Pinal County is a sub recipient of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA –Public Law 113-128) grant funds to provide services for the WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs via an intergovernmental agreement with the Arizona Department of Economic Security. WIOA services are offered under the ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County brand. In Pinal County, delivery of Adult and Dislocated Worker Program services are contracted through Eckerd Connects. Funds are allocated annually by Program Year (July 1 – June 30) and are available for a two-year period.

WIOA allows the transfer of funds between the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Program funding streams to allow Local Workforce Development Areas (Pinal County) the flexibility to provide services in areas of greatest need. The Pinal County Workforce Development Board (PCWDB) and chief elected official (Pinal County Board of Supervisors) may request to transfer up to 100 percent of its allocated funding for Adult and Dislocated Worker activities during a Program Year (PY) between the Adult Program and Dislocated Worker Program.

Pinal County's labor market shows high employment in Retail Trade and Food Services, sectors with lower wages compared to Manufacturing, Construction, Health Services, and Logistics. Rising living costs have significantly increased the demand for up-skilling making Adult services essential to help individuals transition into higher-paying industries. In recent history, Adult Program enrollments have outpaced Dislocated Workers by a 5:1 ratio, necessitating increased funding for career development.

This proactive transfer will enable the Pinal County to meet increased Adult service demand without compromising Dislocated Worker support. By aligning funding with economic conditions and labor market demand, this transfer right-sizes program capacity to foster positive outcomes. It is estimated that an additional 25-30 Adult Program participants, will earn industry-certified credentials. These increases should drive a 10-15% improvement in placements, which, in turn, supports gains in retention, in-demand skills, earnings, co-enrollments, and overall participant success across both funding streams.

Eckerd Connects has submitted a request to the Pinal County Workforce Development Board for the transfer $250,000 of Program Year 2023 funds from its Dislocated Worker Program allocation to its Adult Program funding stream. These funds expire on June 30, 2025. Transfer of such funds will allow ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County to continue to invest in Pinal County citizens who are eligible for Adult services. The transfer will not impact the ability to continue to serve eligible Dislocated Workers.

The Pinal County Workforce Development Board (PCWDB) is soliciting public comments related to this request through November 8, 2024 to be considered at during the November 21, 2024 PCWDB meeting. **Public comments may be submitted to:** arizonaatwork@pinal.gov