Career Bridge Modernization & Pathways Expansion

The Workforce Board requests additional funds to finish phased enhancements to www.CareerBridge.wa.gov, building on momentum to take this popular public-facing career and education planning portal to the next level. This includes automating data transfers through data loaders and APIs, along with creating a more dynamic, user-friendly interface. Continued upgrades, and a growing number of users, require ongoing staff support—two current project positions need to be made permanent to handle growing capacity and evolving IT requirements.

A pilot project to improve access to credential transparency by unpacking key skills and competencies contained in thousands of state postsecondary credentials should also be funded. This will help Washingtonians make informed education and career decisions by better understanding what they're learning, and how skills connect to the needs of the marketplace.

Fund finish line work, ongoing staffing as Career Bridge grows

With additional funding, the Workforce Board can:

- Conclude key "finish line" modernization work that automates, improves site usability and reliability.
- Provide dedicated staff to manage site operations and oversee IT as Career Bridge grows.
- Expand data fields to better describe postsecondary credentials to potential students, and employers seeking specific skills.
- Initiate a higher education pilot project to unpack and better detail what's inside credentials tied to in-demand industry areas.

Impact Highlights

- Provides a cutting-edge, public-facing education and career portal that's kept fresh and actionable through dedicated, ongoing staffing.
- Provides a user-friendly platform that is both equitable and accessible.
- Delivers data that is kept continuously current through automated data loaders, APIs.
- Informs WA students and jobseekers about what's inside a credential, including skills and competencies, and their potential return on investment.
- Helps WA employers discover the specific skills contained within thousands of WA postsecondary credentials with a direct connection to their real-world hiring needs.

Project Costs

$3.3 million for the 2025-27 biennium:

- Provide dedicated staff to oversee site management & evolving IT needs.
- Finish site upgrades, improve user interface, automate data transfers.
- Fund pilot to test-drive unpacking skills, competencies.
- Fund project manager and administrative staff to oversee pilot, write "best practices" report.

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