
City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Economic Development
FROM: Alex Philips, Economic Development Director
MEETING: August 1, 2022

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion and give staff direction regarding the Burleson Works program. (*Staff Presenter: Matt Ribitzki, Deputy City Attorney*)

SUMMARY:

The mission of the Burleson Works program is to provide an avenue for companies and citizens in our region to connect with one another to fill the skills gap in our labor market through partnerships with local and regional schools to obtain skills and certifications to gain employment in our community. In the last four year, the mission has been achieved by awarding scholarships to obtain needed skills to industry selected recipients with a path to employment at a Burleson based business. To date, Burleson Works has awarded 10 scholarships with four employees still working with the same Burleson business. The last two years have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Presently, the program operates on an annual timeline, surveying industry partners in October and awarding scholarships each May. How the program operates was devised by a group of local industry partners, representatives from Burleson Independent School District and representatives from higher education providers.

With a changing landscape in employment needs, the program requires modification to continue to meet the needs of local industry partners. The proposed changes would allow the program to become more flexible and also help support existing employees as well as new employees.

New Employees

- We will continue to work with our partners to promote the program and current offerings at the companies.
- Companies that find a candidate through their hiring process that is in the need of training can utilize the Burleson Works Program for assistance.
- The assistance is paid to the school of the companies choosing. Scholarships are capped at **\$3,500**

- This will give companies the “On Demand” assistance in getting training sooner rather than waiting on the previous process.

Existing Employees

- Companies that would like to upskill an employee can request to be reimbursed up to **\$1500** prior to the training beginning.
- The assistance is paid to company after receiving the certificate of completed training and confirmation from the company that the additional training has resulted in the employee gaining additional wages or benefits.
- This assistance would be based on a first come, first serve basis. The EDC would utilize half of the Burleson Works budget to assist with this program each year. (\$30,000)

Following the direction provided to staff, a resolution to formalize the changes, if any, will follow.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Proceed as presented
- 2) Proceed with changes
- 3) Make no changes to Burleson Works

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve as presented

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

The Manufacturing & Industrial Alliance and The Burleson Opportunity Fund Board have voted to support the changes as presented

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

Alex Philips
Economic Development Director
aphilips@burlesontx.com
817-426-9613