



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #:** 19-1919, **Agenda Item #:** 5.

6/6/2019

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### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of a loan agreement with Workforce Solutions Capital Area to assist with facilities expansion needs in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.

### **Lead Department**

Economic Development.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$600,000 is available in the FY 20178-2019 Economic Development Department's Operating Budget.

### **Prior Council Action:**

April 25, 2019 Council Approved IFC for Resolution No. 20190425-044.

### **For More Information:**

Rebecca Giello, Interim Director, Economic Development Department, 512-974-3045.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

In response to Resolution No. 20190425-044, approve a \$600,000, no-interest loan to Workforce Solutions Capital Area to assist with facilities expansion needs in the short-term, without necessitating further possible cuts to client services in the current fiscal year. Workforce Solutions Capital Area Workforce Board serves as Austin/Travis County's workforce development authority, administering public and private resources through comprehensive planning, oversight, and evaluation. The City is authorized by chapter 380 of the Texas Local Government Code and the Texas constitution to provide a loan of funds to promote economic development, including workforce development and retention.

The new, larger facility will be the largest Career Center in the City at approximately 70,000 square feet, which is 32,000 square feet larger than the current center and will house over 200 total staff. The Board will also continue to operate its current East and South Career Center locations, reviewing possible expansion and relocation options starting in 2020.

The expansion will offer a number of public benefits including:

- Location in East Austin, to better align with customer needs;
- Triple the conference room space of the current facility, to accommodate more job seekers, employers, and community demand for collaborative space;
- More work stations to accommodate new partnership opportunities, including 42 Vocational Rehabilitation field and administrative staff from the Texas Workforce Commission; and

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Expanded customer access to Workforce Solutions' services: job counseling and matching, job training, job seeker workshops, subsidized child care, employer job fairs, veterans' services, disability employment services, and community-based programs.