

## Workforce Recovery Grant

### DESCRIPTION

The Workforce Recovery Program would be a one-stop-shop for businesses to access support to hire/rehire jobs, train workers and provide tech grants for remote working. The program will use the current Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund and Primary Sector Workforce Training Grant program infrastructure to manage the program.

The original Workforce Recovery Program (late 2020) provided grant funding of \$5,000 - \$7,500 per employee rehired. Employee numbers were based on unemployment insurance reports prior to March 2020 and compared to the most current report. If a business had 25 employees in December of 2019 and currently has 15, they could qualify for a grant of \$50,000 - \$75,000 to rehire the 10 positions that were let go. The business must have the employees for a minimum of 6 months before receiving full funding. Businesses located in high poverty counties could receive up to \$7,500 per employee and low poverty counties \$5,000 per employee. This new program would also allow grants to businesses to hire new employees, too.

### RESOURCES NEEDED TO EXECUTE

- \$20 million
- Staffed with current employees

### OBJECTIVES

All businesses located in Montana that have employees and pay unemployment insurance would be eligible. The previous program was restricted to conform to the funding source and would now have the flexibility to expand to include workforce expansion, varying grant amounts, and have the ability to support larger businesses with more employees.

### MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

- Number of employees hired from beginning to end of the program
- Wages and business income increases
- Successful retention of employees