



Mr. John Edmond, Regional Representative
Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Seattle Regional Office
Jackson Federal Building
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174-1001

RE: FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge Notice of Funding Opportunity EDA-HDQ-ARPBBB-2021-2006976 – Phase 2

Dear Mr. Edmond:

On behalf of Workforce Connections, I am writing to share our support for Southern Nevada's Build Back Better Regional Challenge Phase 2 grant proposal, led by the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance (LVGEA). The proposal focuses on the growth of the Southern Nevada region's advanced manufacturing industry cluster through the advancement of four (4) tightly aligned, transformative projects with an emphasis on job creation, economic outputs, equity, and sustainability. Together, these projects will create a long-term, transformational plan for rebuilding Southern Nevada's regional economy that is fully aligned with the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).

Workforce Connections is Southern Nevada's Local Workforce Development Board. We convene the public workforce development system in our area and our mission is "Connecting Employers to a Ready Workforce". We oversee a network of One-Stop Centers that provide no-cost employment and training services to employers and jobseekers.

In the event this proposal is funded, Workforce Connections would collaborate with LVGEA in the following ways:

- Helping to identify employer labor training needs across the region through our engagement with private sector employers, training partners and institutions of higher education.
- Leveraging a portion of the \$22-25 million in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funding resources to provide jobseekers with job training and employment opportunities in manufacturing, including improving access to certificate programs, stackable, industry recognized credentials and degree programs.
- Providing on the job training, apprenticeship opportunities and learn and earn opportunities where appropriate to help clients obtain and retain good, high-quality jobs.
- Helping to break down barriers to access and participation for historically marginalized populations, as aligned with our core mission, by providing wraparound and supportive services such as transportation assistance, childcare, and case management through our subcontractor/vendor partners.



workforce CONNECTIONS

PEOPLE PARTNERSHIPS POSSIBILITIES

Connecting Employers to a Ready Workforce

- Collaborating on strategic initiatives to grow Southern Nevada's manufacturing and logistics industries through outreach to key stakeholders, convenings with partners, and a focus on program and practice changes that will help to grow Nevada's economy; and
- Helping to identify industry growth threats and opportunities.

Our team at Workforce Connections was deeply involved in the project identification and selection process for this important funding opportunity during Phase 1. We look forward to working with LVGEA and the Southern Nevada's Build Back Better Coalition on Phase 2 of this initiative.

LVGEA is an important lead for this grant, and the breadth of the partners assembled to establish the coalition behind this proposal signals the community is aligned in our understanding of the opportunity this grant will bring to enhancing our regional economy in the identified project areas. If you have any questions, please contact me at jcruz@snvwc.org or (702) 638-8750.

Sincerely,

Jaime Cruz
Executive Director