



**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2019 Grant Committee Meeting. Ms. Foley moved for approval of the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Lindsay.

Upon roll call, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<u><b>AYES</b></u>	<u><b>NAYS</b></u>	<u><b>ABSTENTIONS</b></u>
Anne Foley	None	None
Barbara Lindsay		
Peter Lisi		
Dr. Estela Lopez		

Mr. Lisi introduced new CHEFA Board member Susan Martin, CFO and Treasurer, Middlesex Health System.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FY 2020 TARGETED GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS**

Dr. Lopez stated the meeting will consist of reviewing the four applicants presented for the FY 2020 Targeted Grant Program and that Ms. Weintraub would provide an overview of the applicants submitted.

Before providing the overview, Dr. Lopez stated that Ms. Weintraub will recuse herself from voting on the grant for the Working Cities Challenge program because Ms. Weintraub sits on the statewide advisory committee for this entity.

Ms. Weintraub stated that The Targeted Grant Program was established to meet a statewide need that would be broadly impactful. A total of \$1,000,000 is available to be awarded at this meeting.

There are four applicants under review:

- STRIVE Program
- Working Cities Challenge

- Workforce Development Council – First-Time Employment for Opportunity Youth (16-24 years old)
- Workforce Development Council – Scale up Evidence-Based, Demand-Driven Job Training Models Statewide, an expansion of a FY 2019 Targeted Grant

The STRIVE program is a national program to help individuals who have a difficult time trying to find employment, typically involved with the justice system, that focuses on skill acquisition and workforce readiness. The program currently runs in four CT cities, including Hartford, Waterbury, New Haven, and Bridgeport. This grant would also fund an expansion of the program to pre-release at two correctional facilities, York and Cheshire (TRUE Unit) and has an 80% successful employment rate.

The Working Cities Challenge is an initiative of the Federal Reserve Bank out of Boston, , that runs in the CT cities of Hartford, Middletown, East Hartford, Waterbury and Danbury. These cities were selected by the Boston Fed through a competitive process. They meet regularly, as a collaborative with multiple community stakeholders, on a ten-year plan developed to positively change the trajectory for workforce and economic development for their communities.

The Workforce Development Council – First-Time Employment for Opportunity Youth (16-24 years old) includes summer youth employment for students in school, as well as employment for youth that are not in school. Ms. Weintraub stated that according to research from the University of Chicago, youth getting first time jobs have shown that they are more likely to graduate from high school, have less criminal activity, and is generally a jumpstart to gainful employment.

The Workforce Development Council - Scale up Evidence-Based, Demand-Driven Job Training Models Statewide, an expansion of a FY 2019 Targeted Grant. The grant would expand from the current Healthcare and Manufacturing sectors to include other CT growth employment sectors that have training programs, such as IT, logistics and distributions, hospitality and others. This program looks at removing barriers to training and employment and is administered by the American Job Centers through the Workforce Development Boards, which operate under the auspices of the Department of Labor.

Ms. Weintraub stated the process involved her meeting with all CHEFA Officers, which included Ms. Weldon, Ms. Peoples-H., Mr. Morris, and Ms. Aguilera, to review the grants. Their scores were aggregated in the Foundant Grant Management System. It was reported that all the grants scored in a similar range and therefore would support a recommendation of approval.

Dr. Lopez opened the floor up for questions and a discussion ensued.

Ms. Foley stated she has an overall question regarding how these four programs were invited to submit applications.

Dr. Lopez explained that when the FY2019-FY2021 CHEFA Strategic Plan was created, Economic and Workforce Development was identified as a strategic pillar for the agency. In FY 2019, the Grant Committee decided to align the Targeted Grant Program with this strategic pillar as workforce has been identified by Governor Lamont as of utmost importance to the state. The Targeted Grant Program has always been focused on statewide impact and entities that are operating in multiple locations throughout the state. Dr. Lopez stated that Ms. Weintraub, through her community involvement, identified several organizations that met this criteria, and they were invited to make brief presentations at the September Annual Meeting of the Grant Committee. After the presentations, a discussion ensued, where the Grant Committee agreed to invite each of the four organizations to submit applications, up to \$250,000, for the FY 2020 Targeted Grant Program.

Ms. Foley asked if there was a broader list of potential applicants from which these four were selected.

Ms. Weintraub explained that she specifically looked at workforce organizations that operate statewide programs, in multiple communities throughout the state.

Ms. Foley stated that her concern is to ensure due diligence and to get a broad universe of applicants. . Dr. Lopez understood Ms. Foley's concern and ensured her that the process will be reviewed and documented for the future.

Mr. Lisi asked a question about the term of the grants and why some of the programs were invited for one year while the Workforce Development Board was invited for two. Ms. Weintraub

explained that The Workforce Development Board asked for an expansion to the first-year grant but with a separate and new review. A discussion ensued.

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to approve the FY 2020 CHEFA Targeted Grant for The STRIVE Program in the amount of \$250,000. Ms. Foley moved the motion and Mr. Lisi seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTENTIONS</u>
Anne Foley	None	None
Barbara Lindsay		
Peter Lisi		
Dr. Estela Lopez		

Mr. Lisi inquired about how a total of \$500,000 out of the \$1,000,000 will essentially be going to The Workforce Development Council. Ms. Weintraub stated that they are two distinct, separate programs that serve separate populations. Ms. Weintraub explained that the Workforce Development Council is a convening entity that administers the money through the Workforce Development Boards and then is sent on to the statewide American Job Centers. . There are 15 American Job Centers throughout the state and 5 locations of the Workforce Development Boards in which the \$250,000 will be split.

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to approve the FY 2020 CHEFA Targeted Grant for The Workforce Development Council- Scale up Evidence-Based, Demand-Driven Job Training Models Statewide, an expansion of a FY 2019 Targeted Grant. in the amount of \$250,000. Ms. Foley moved the motion and Ms. Lindsay seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTENTIONS</u>
Anne Foley	None	None
Barbara Lindsay		
Peter Lisi		

Dr. Estela Lopez

Dr. Lopez stated that the main difference with the funding for The Workforce Development Council - First-Time Employment for Opportunity Youth (16-24 years old) is that some of it will go for year-round (for youth not in school) and some of it will go for summer (for youth in school).

Ms. Foley had a question regarding how the Workforce Development Board keeps 6% of the funding for administrative fees. Mr. Lisi then asked if there are any guidelines stated in the grants about indirect costs for administrative fees. Ms. Weintraub stated it is a case-by-case basis and it is limited. A discussion ensued.

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to approve the FY 2020 CHEFA Targeted Grant for The Workforce Development Council – First-Time Employment for Opportunity Youth in the amount of \$250,000. Ms. Foley moved the motion and Mr. Lisi seconded the motion

Upon roll call, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTENTIONS</u>
Anne Foley	None	None
Barbara Lindsay		
Peter Lisi		
Dr. Estela Lopez		

With the Working Cities Challenge Grant as the next order of business, Ms. Weintraub left the room at 1:10p.m.

Dr. Lopez asked if there were any questions and there was further discussion about the grant applicant selection and review process and Ms. Weintraub’s recusal with regard to the Working Cities Challenge grant..

Ms. Foley stated that formal documentation of these processes should be done for future awards. Mr. Lisi agreed. A discussion ensued.

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to approve the FY 2020 CHEFA Targeted Grant for Working Cities Challenge in the amount of \$250,000. Ms. Lindsay moved the motion and Mr. Lisi seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTENTIONS</u></b>
Barbara Lindsay	None	Anne Foley
Peter Lisi		
Dr. Estela Lopez		

Ms. Weintraub returned to the meeting at 1:22p.m.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion of the targeted grant process continued, and Ms. Weintraub briefly discussed the process of how all applicants came to be considered.

Ms. Foley thanked Ms. Weintraub and the internal reviewers for all their work reviewing the grant cycle.

**ADJOURNMENT**

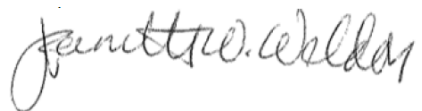
Dr. Lopez requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Foley moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Lindsey seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the “Ayes,” “Nays,” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<b>AYES</b>	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>ABSTENTIONS</b>
Anne Foley	None	None
Barbara Lindsay		
Peter Lisi		
Dr. Estela Lopez		

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanette Weldon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Jeanette Weldon  
Executive Director