

OWS FY26 / FY27
Responses for Bond Working Group

Included in this package:

1. Response to Bond Committee Questions
2. Summary of OWS Bond Budget, Allocated Funds, \$20MM
3. Summary of OWS Bond Budget, Unallocated FY26 Funds, 20MM

For the agency's bond-funded programs:

1. Are the pending FY 27 authorizations still necessary?
 - a. If so, is the authorization level adequate to complete the project or continue the program through FY 27, as applicable?
 - b. *OWS looks forward to receiving Bond Commission approval for the allocation of FY 27 of \$20,000,000 for the Workforce Innovation and Sustainability (WIS) funds. OWS supports the Governor's recommendations for this line item.*
2. For programs with unallocated balances:
 - a. Does your agency need the unallocated balance?
 - i. If so, for what purpose?

Yes, these funds will enable OWS to make greater impact on its three strategic priorities as set forth in the Governor's Strategic Plan:

(1) Drive Growth: Funding to support our efforts with employers, especially through the Regional Sector Partnerships, to build a collaborative, industry-driven workforce system that fills immediate and long-term workforce needs;

(2) Build Skills: Funding to support short-term and incumbent working training; and

(3) Expand Access: Funding to support the Career ConneCT Portal and for supportive services that are critical to enabling individuals to persist through training and transition successfully into jobs.

OWS will prioritize sector-based short-term training to sustain the Career ConneCT total framework and all its components including demand-driven training (in person, online, or hybrid), supportive services, case management support, and job placement services. OWS will also prioritize funding Incumbent Worker Training and Work-based Learning models.
 - ii. Within what time frame? *~3 years*
 - b. Are the unallocated funds obligated, designated, or otherwise attached to projects, or are funds available for future needs as they arise? *No, they are not attached to specific projects, but as outlined above, they are intended to support the three strategic priorities of the Governor's Workforce Strategic Plan. Projects will be competitively bid.*
 - i. If attached to projects, please provide information on the projects.
3. Allocation of funds
 - a. Were recent allocations to specific purposes (e.g., a specific project or projects, or grant awardee(s)) or generally to the program?
 - i. If generally allocated to the program, briefly describe the process for determining uses and the ultimate recipients or uses of the funds.
 - ii. *OWS had two allocations approved on August 1, 2025, for two specific lines:*
 1. *\$5MM for the Career Accelerator Program (CAP): OWS will procure, through a competitive bid, a Fund Manager to oversee the evaluation and distribution of financial aid to qualifying individuals. CAP funds are intended to be the "last dollar" and support residents where other funds are unable to do so.*
 2. *\$10MM for the Workforce Innovation and Sustainability (WIS) fund: OWS will procure, through a competitive bid, a variety of workforce training services which support the broad mission of this source of funds as outlined in question 2 above.*

4. Have changes to federal programs and/or policies impacted your agency's bond-funded programs?
 - a. If so, in what ways?
 - b. *Changes to federal programs have not directly impacted the agency's bond-funded agenda. OWS will continue to use its bond funds to make the greatest impact which serves Connecticut's workforce participation and fill any gaps in funding opportunities.*

Bond Funds Summary: An investment to the OWS, totaling \$40MM, for discretionary workforce training and pilot programs.

OWS has been allocated **\$20MM** to date

Funds	Description of Uses	Total Allocated	Obligated	Expended to date	Balance Remaining
Career ConneCT <i>Bond approval received on December 21, 2021</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capitol Workforce Partners (CWP), Basic Skills Remediation Pilot Program, (\$1,651,827) 2. Social Finance, Career Accelerator Study (\$300,000) 3. Resource Systems Group, Inc., Transportation Study (\$179,466) 4. Business Higher Education Forum (BHEF), Tech Talent Accelerator 3.0 (\$2,700,000) 5. EdAdvance, AI Skills for Jobs (\$125,000) 6. Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB), Training Building Renovation (\$24,500) 	\$5,000,000	\$4,980,793 (99%)	\$1,792,434	\$19,206
Career Accelerator Program (CAP) <i>Bond approval received on August 1, 2025</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small contract to assist with the development of the RFP for a Fund Manger 2. The balance will go to the CAP Fund Manager 	\$5,000,000	0%	0%	\$5,000,000
Workforce Innovation and Sustainability (WIS) Funds, Allotment 1 <i>Bond approval received on August 1, 2025</i>	<p>Funding to support the 3 Strategic Plan Pillars: Drive Growth, Build Skills Expand Access</p> <p>Overview of Uses: Short-term Training Programs & State-wide Portal (Career ConneCT), Incumbent Worker Grants, Regional Sector Partnership support, Supportive Services, Data Reporting System, some staffing</p>	\$10,000,000	0%	0%	\$10,000,000

OWS has an unallocated balance of **\$20MM** remaining

Funds	Description of Uses	Total Available	Obligated	Expended to date	Unallocated Balance
WIS Funds, Allotment 2 <i>Bond approval TBD</i>	Additional funding to expand on Allotment 1 to support the 3 Strategic Plan Pillars: Drive Growth, Build Skills Expand Access	\$20,000,000	n/a	n/a	\$20,000,000

