

SELT Fiscal Planning Meeting

February 25, 2014

SAM Building

Present: John Cech, Kali Wicks, David Hall, Kelly Hert, Steve York, TJ Eyer

- Kali discussed total allocation of Perkins funds
 - Looked at 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, then projected 2014-2015
 - Allocation will be determined a bit late this year
 - Administration for Local Applications must come from the federally mandated 5%; Administration for State Leadership activities may come from State Leadership Funds
 - Kelly corrected this statement when mentioned. Need to understand the definition of administrative tasks. Work directly done that benefits State Leadership can be charged against leadership as long as it is not over site duties. Must keep records to support this.
- Required use of funds #1:
 - Question posed to the group: Does the use of funds for Accountability Specialist constitute administration? Funding for Shane G. will not come from Perkins next year, although he will continue Perkins Data. Funding for Diana F. comes from 3 different sources, and OPI will ensure that her time administering local applications does not exceed the mandated 5%. Brad K. and Renee H. also perform administration for local applications, and will track their hours and ensure the total amount for all hours for administration of local applications does not exceed the mandated 5%.
 - The group will also ensure that when working for state leadership, individual's salary is tracked under state leadership
 - This requirement has previously been met through:
 - Data & E-Grants system and statewide indicators
 - Monitoring visits and reviewing local applications for special populations
 - These activities will continue through the 2014-2015 Grant Cycle
 - Question posed to the group: What are schools doing to support special populations? (unwed mothers, students with disabilities, etc.)
 - OCHE & OPI may add information to E-Grants system to assess what schools are doing to support these populations, if this is not already included.
- Required use of funds #2:
 - Professional development is technology based such as technical workshops and computer certifications
 - Renee is working on providing STEM
 - Collaborative work with STEM and Big Sky Pathways
 - It was suggested that a joint BSP/STEM cluster training be considered for 2014-2015 Grant Cycle
 - TJ is meeting with Project Lead the Way representative next week
- Required use of funds #3
 - Approached by MPSOC for counseling at career fairs
 - Current activities for this required use are strong, and the SELT team would like to see these activities continue through the 2014-2015 Grant Cycle
- Required use of funds #4
 - Strengthening Big Sky Pathways grant

- An option to partner with local job services
 - Action step: Kali will work on draft and then send to Renee/OPI
- Required use of funds #9
 - This discussion related to Rural Reserve funds
 - Self-explanatory
 - Technical assistance for local application falls under administration
 - Technical assistance for state leadership falls under state leadership

Non-Traditional Funding: Carl D. Perkins legislation dictates that states will allocate between \$60,000 and \$150,000 for nontraditional service. The Montana State Perkins Plan states that this funding will be RFP'd to local applicants. Non-traditional funding comes off the top of state leadership funds.

The group discussed the use of funds, as it has previously been RFP's and allocated to OPI for staff salaries.

- In 2011, \$60,000 was allocated to OPI for specialists
- The question was raised as to whether this was able to be used for staff salaries
 - Kali suggests possibly talking to OCTAE to see if salary is an acceptable use of funds
- Kali suggested that the funding be split between OPI/OCHE, as the funding/services need to be provided to both secondary and postsecondary entities
 - \$30,000 to nontraditional programs at postsecondary level
 - \$30,000 to OPI specialists for training purposes

The group discussed the intended nature of the funds, and brainstormed ideas:

- Career fairs to spark student interest in nontraditional careers
- A state-wide non-traditional training/fair
- Steve York and TJ Eyer suggested a change in the state plan so that funding goes to secondary side, and \$60,000 could be allocated for post-secondary out of reserve.
 - Kali discussed that these were two separate pots of money, and it was important for the \$60,000 in non-traditional funding to serve both secondary and postsecondary entities.
 - TJ and Steve discussed the hardship of losing the \$60,000
 - Reduction of \$30,000 would likely remove OPI's operating budget, possibly eliminate health science specialist position
 - Travel expenses are already reduced
 - CTSO time will be freed up next year
 - Specialists listed in state law, funding is not listed
 - Without \$60,000, OPI would have great difficulty managing staff load

Action Step:

- TJ and Steve will look into what the reduction of \$30,000 would mean for OPI
- They will present a proposal to address the non-traditional needs of both secondary and postsecondary utilizing the \$60,000 by 3/7.
- TJ will have Renee take the lead on the plan
- SELT will consider this proposal and the reduction report and decide on a course of action following 3/7
- All changes to state plan must be submitted prior to 3/21, as state plan changes are due on that date

The group also discussed:

- Partnerships with state workforce and investment board, community organizations for training for employment

- Pathway coordinator from MSU Northern began working with job services
- If this funding was RFP'd, it could possibly involve job service partners
- Job service is great resource
- 18,000 postsecondary students served/7,000 secondary students served
 - Currently working with 12 programs, and Northern and Western as well
- Big Sky Pathways RFP Discussion (From Reserve funding):
 - The group discussed the framework of the Strengthening Big Sky Pathway Grants for the 2014-2015 Cycle
 - The group agreed on the following:
 - 8 grants of \$75,000, which will include:
 - BSP coordinator positions
 - Stipends for teachers who work on pathways outside of contract
 - Career Counseling presentations/training
 - Public Presentations/Marketing
 - Big Sky Pathway Cluster seminars designed to create rigorous programs of study
 - Additional metrics
 - Up to 5 grants of \$10,000, which will include:
 - Big Sky Pathway Cluster seminars designed to create rigorous programs of study including dual enrollment, industry-recognized credentials, work-based learning and internship opportunities.
 - Additional Metrics
 - The group discussed that if there is additional funding, it should not be utilized, as rollover is necessary to provide the number of grants we are supporting each year. Action Step: Kali will develop this RFP and share it with the group.