



Upward Economic Mobility Program (UEMP)

Economic and Community Development

Requester Information

Legislator Name: McKell, Michael K.

Created Date: January 31st 2025

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Section 1: Requester Details

Description:

The Upward Economic Mobility Program (UEMP) seeks to transform disadvantaged, underserved, and hard-to-reach individuals by providing a sustainable pathway forward. True change is driven by education, idea exchange, and a support network, which fosters a leadership mindset and skillset to help individuals unleash their full potential. Through this program, participants can realize their worthy dreams and positively impact their communities, the State of Utah, and the United States. The program aims to build, lift, and empower disadvantaged individuals by linking leadership and skills training with essential resources such as employment, housing, medical care, transportation, and food—foundational building blocks for sustainable economic success and have a significant impact on recidivism.

Legislative designee contact information:

Name: Jamie R. Thorup

Organization: The Lead With Light Foundation

Position: Executive Director

Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

Category		One-time	Ongoing
Personnel Services	2025:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2026:	\$0.00	
In-State Travel	2025:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2026:	\$0.00	



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Category	One-time	Ongoing	
Out-of-State Travel	2025:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2026:	\$0.00	
Supplies and Equipment	2025:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2026:	\$0.00	
Technology Purchases	2025:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2026:	\$0.00	
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2025:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2026:	\$0.00	
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2025:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2026:	\$900,000.00	

Expenditure Total

One-time 2025	One-time 2026	Ongoing 2026
\$0.00	\$900,000.00	\$0.00

Funding Sources:

General Fund

Amount Requested:

2025 (One-time)	\$0.00
2026 (One-time)	\$900,000.00
2026 (Ongoing)	\$0.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2025	One-time 2026	Ongoing 2026
\$0.00	\$900,000.00	\$0.00



Is this a multi-year project?

No

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

Yes

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled?

This program can be scaled up or down by 20% based on need and funding capability. Adjustments can be made to the number of participants and the scope of resources provided while maintaining the program's core objectives.

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

Economy

01533

Agency:

063 / Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding:

Private Not for Profit

Grant recipient

No

Requested Direct Award Grant Recipient

Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement



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Who would benefit the most from this request (who is the target audience)?

4.1 The primary beneficiaries of the UEMP are disadvantaged and underserved individuals within the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) system, including those currently incarcerated, on parole, or former convicted felons off parole. • The UDC oversees approximately 6,000 inmates in state facilities and supervises about 16,000 offenders in the community. • Without interventions, the recidivism rate in Utah is 46-55% within three years of release. • A lack of education and employment opportunities is the leading cause of recidivism. • Research shows that for every \$1.00 invested in education for inmates and parolees, the return on investment is \$4.00 to \$5.00 per year due to improved employment outcomes and lower recidivism rates. • Every inmate who does not return to prison saves the State of Utah approximately \$25,000 per year. Indirect beneficiaries include the State of Utah and its citizens, who benefit from reduced crime, lower incarceration costs, and a stronger workforce.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

1. Provide leadership and skills training to 350 inmates and parolees, equipping them with a viable and sustainable economic pathway. Attachment Two in Section 5 provides INMATE feedback on their experience with the Light with Lead and the BYB Leadership Academy. On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), 98% felt this program would be invaluable for other inmates. 2. Be a clearing house and leverage existing resources—including employment, housing, medical care, transportation, and education—to support reentry. See attachment three with organizations that can help open the doors of opportunity, in collaborations with Lead with Light, to create a successful transition with work, housing, medical, transportation, and food. 3. Reduce recidivism among program participants by 50%, preventing approximately 87 out of 350 individuals from reoffending within three years, saving the State of Utah over \$2,000,000 per year.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

The Lead With Light Foundation will maintain on-going analytics measuring number of inmates and The Foundation will track and report on key performance indicators, including: • The number of inmates and parolees completing the Leadership Academy. • Employment placement rates post-training. • Housing, medical, transportation, and peer support placement rates. • The number of former inmates who successfully transition off parole and reintegrate into their communities. • Recidivism rates. A quarterly and annual report will be submitted to the Legislature to ensure transparency and accountability.



Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language Documents

Previous Funding Documents

Full Time Employees

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