



Jobs and Workforce Development Workgroup Minutes
August 27, 2025, 1:30PM – 3:00PM
Regional Economic Development Inc (REDI, 500 E. Walnut #102, Columbia, MO)
and Zoom

Meeting Objective: Reassess how to approach the workgroup results statement.

Attendees: Lisa Driskel-Hawxby, Facilitator (Regional Economic Development (REDI)), Liz Sensintaffar (Job Point), Beatrice Stewart (Flourish Initiative), Conrad Hake (Love Columbia), Mel Constatine (Flourish Initiative), Fred Saffold (Reentry Opportunity Center (ROC)), Chelsea Tatlow (The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri), Megan Weaver (Moberly Area Community College), Miles Gibson (First Last Mile), Brooklyn Hill (Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA)), Onni Flint (CMCA), Jessica Jasinski (First Last Mile), Katie Siegel (Columbia Public Schools (CPS)), Jennifer DeLaPorte (CPS), Lisa Buxman (Love Columbia), Nikki Chilton (St. Louis University Transformative Workforce Academy), Russ Unger (Missouri Works Initiative), Nikki Carter (University of Missouri (MU) Health Care), Priscilla Rose (Dream Tree Academy), Joanne Nelson (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Gina Jenkins (BCCSD), Enola-Riann White (BCCSD)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Driskel-Hawxby opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to the Regional Economic Development (REDI) space and providing an overview of REDI. Everyone then introduced themselves focusing on why individuals do their work to get a sense of the resources in the community.

2. Review of workgroup efforts

Lisa Driskel-Hawxby referenced the 2025 Workgroup Plan Overview document to guide the discussion. She provided background on the original goals of the group compared to the changing landscape of needs and what is available. Upon review of the strategic actions, it was found that many of the needs are being met by groups or organizations that did not exist at the time of the Mobility Action Plan.

3. Workgroup Planning

a. 2025 Workgroup Plan Discussion

- The workgroup was asked to consider the group's capacity to find out "what's next" for the workgroup. Small group discussion was followed by groups coming back together to report on the main ideas each group generated. The workgroup found consensus on the two following areas of focus: create or enhance a hub to bridge the gaps between resources and the community and to develop an "employer champion program" to give employers more information about programs and resources they may encounter. For the next meeting the workgroup was asked to further consider the focus area considering the workgroup's capacity.

b. Next Steps

- The workgroup will be prepared to discuss what an employer champion program would look like and what other parties should be brought into the conversation as it is developed.
- Love Columbia will share an overview of their current Career Next Steps website to help the workgroup consider what a resource hub could look like.

4. Closing

a. Partner Updates

- No partner updates were provided.

**Upward Mobility is an initiative of the Boone County Community Services Department
and is funded in part by the Boone County Children's Services Fund.**



Jobs and Workforce Development Workgroup Minutes
August 27, 2025, 1:30PM – 3:00PM
Regional Economic Development Inc (REDI, 500 E. Walnut #102, Columbia, MO)
and Zoom

b. Comments and Questions

- No additional comments or questions were presented. Lisa Driskel-Hawxby closed the meeting with a reminder that further planning would occur at the next workgroup meeting.

Next Workgroup Meeting: September 24, 2025, 1:30PM – 3:00PM at Boone Electric Community Building – Volt Room (1413 Rangeline, Columbia MO) in person or via [Zoom](#)