



City of Detroit

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CITY COUNCIL

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MARY SHEFFIELD  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
DISTRICT 5

# Memorandum

**To:** Terri Weems, Interim President & CEO Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation/Workforce Development Board

**From:** Council President Mary Sheffield

**CC:** Mayor Mike Duggan, OCFO, LPD, City Clerk

**Date:** 3/17/2023

**Re:** Questions for the Detroit Employment Solutions Corp FY 23-24 Budget Hearing

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1. According to the Mayor's proposed budget, DESC is set to receive \$665,000 for Workforce Development whereas the current adopted budget shows no such subsidy for FY 22-23.

What does this proposed expenditure represent and how will these funds be used?

2. In my interactions with those who have used the services at DESC and some employers and training programs who rely on DESC, I have consistently heard that the process is convoluted, lacks the ability to process applicants quickly and discouraging for the end user.

Within DESC's budget and operations, what funding is set aside to monitor the efficacy of the programs and processes and to receive feedback from end users of the services offered? What ways, if any, does DESC work to attain feedback and how is the information communicated back to the City of Detroit?

3. Most development agreements, especially with respect to workforce development and the hiring of Detroiters, cite the intent to work with DESC to ensure the jobs they intend to create go to resident of the City.

What has been DESC's experience in dealing with developers and job creators receiving tax abatements with respect to seeking your help with hiring Detroiters? Is DESC's budget and current staffing level sufficient enough to support the influx of developers and businesses utilizing your services to attract and hire Detroiters?

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**4. The Administration of the Grow Detroit Young Talent youth employment falls under the purview of DESC.**

**What funding does DESC receive, annually, to manage GDYT? What metrics does DESC use to monitor the efficacy of GDYT? Does the program attempt to track both the educational and employment success of GDYT participants?**

**5. There are several barriers for Detroiters entering the job market such as the lack of transportation, no access to child care, housing insecurity and the lack of education and literacy.**

**What supportive services does DESC offer directly or refer clientele to which work to remove some of the known barriers to gainful employment for a large segment of Detroit's unemployed and under-employed population?**