

Re: JobPath's Vital Role in our Community

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to show my support for the JobPath program and the vital role they play in creating equitable access to education, job training, and economic opportunity in Pima County.

I support JobPath because without JobPath I couldn't have afforded to go to school again to change careers. JobPath paid for most of my school and my student loan burden would have gotten higher without them. They were a great support for me and they are badly needed for students in Arizona. The economy has tanked and costs of living have gone up and this makes it hard for people to go back to school because they are focused on the costs of schooling and worrying about loans.

The thought of funding being cut worries me, because jobs with critical shortages, such as nursing, will have an even harder time finding future employees if low and middle income individuals cannot get their costs covered.

JobPath has played a crucial role in economic development for the Southern Arizona region since it was founded in 1998 and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. JobPath has a strong reputation for helping students succeed in our community:

- Over 90% of students supported by JobPath complete their program
- 85% of those find employment in their field within 6 months of their graduation
- Those who complete their program increase their annual salaries by an average of
- \$42,000/year

Because JobPath supports students in specific careers fields that Pima County identifies as in-demand and high wage, their impact goes far beyond the students they serve to create a healthier economy through increased tax revenue, buying power, and healthier families. This is what makes them different from other agencies and government programs.

I encourage you to vote to continue JobPath's general funds at the same or increased level

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With the rising cost of housing, groceries, gas and so much more, JobPath's support is needed now more than ever!

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Sincerely,
Lori Schuetz
District #

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 20