



Layoff Aversion Pilot Will Help Keep Approximately 275 Southern Nevadans Employed

Private Funding From Bank of Nevada Boosts Reach of Initiative

LAS VEGAS, NV - May 11, 2020 - Approximately 275 employees at more than 60 Southern Nevada small businesses and nonprofits will remain on the payroll thanks to an innovative Layoff Aversion Pilot developed by Workforce Connections, Southern Nevada's Local Workforce Development Board. The pilot brings together public and private funding to support employers and employees impacted by COVID-19.

The Layoff Aversion Pilot utilizes \$344,000 of federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds provided by the **Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR)**. An additional \$100,000 was donated by **Bank of Nevada**, which significantly extends the reach of the initiative.

The pilot is a wage reimbursement program, in which:

- Employers are **reimbursed** up to 50% of a current employee's wages from April 20, 2020 through June 30, 2020.
- Each employer can receive a maximum of \$1,600 per individual employee, for up to five employees.
- No employer will receive more than \$8,000 in total.
- Employers do not receive a lump sum check, rather the business will be reimbursed per payroll period after submitting proof of paid wages.

Small businesses and nonprofits were identified to participate in the pilot using the collective expertise of the **Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance (LVGEA)**, and these **local chambers of commerce: Asian, Boulder City, Henderson, India, Laughlin, Latin, Mesquite, Urban and Vegas.**

"Because the funding is limited, we knew this pilot could not help every business that deserves assistance. That is why we enlisted our local chambers and economic development partners to identify businesses where this type of funding could be maximized and distributed quickly," said Workforce Connections executive director Jaime Cruz. "The additional funding from Bank of Nevada showcases the way our private and public sectors are coming together to assist employers and employees during this pandemic."

"We are proud to work with our partners throughout the community to find innovative ways to help small businesses avoid, or delay layoffs," said DETR Director Heather Korbolic. "Keeping Nevadans on the payroll is one of DETR's primary goals. We are pleased to be a part of this collaborative effort."

"Small businesses have taken a direct hit as a result of the sudden economic changes and many can't continue to pay employees without help," said John Guedry, Division CEO, Bank of Nevada. "We understand the impact these businesses have on our economy and are proud to join with Workforce Connections to provide a \$100,000 donation to the Layoff Aversion Pilot and assist 275 employees at more than 60 Southern Nevada businesses receive a paycheck in these challenging times," said Guedry. "Additionally, Bank of Nevada is available to help those businesses that have not yet sought relief through the Paycheck Protection Program and require assistance with their application," he added.

Each business selected to participate has less than fifty employees, is current on unemployment insurance (UI) taxes, and is in good standing with the Nevada Secretary of State and its local jurisdiction. The participating businesses proportionally represent the jurisdictions Workforce Connections serves.

"The level of partnership in our region we have seen in response to COVID-19 has been unprecedented," said Jonas Peterson, president & CEO of LVGEA. "Together, our organizations know supporting our businesses and residents is crucial to taking steps toward recovery. There are many great federal and state initiatives to help, but we know every program makes a difference. The Layoff Aversion Pilot is another great way to fill in those gaps and help employees."

"Any assistance we can give small businesses and nonprofits to preserve jobs helps limit the harm the Coronavirus is having on our economy. The Vegas Chamber is proud to join with Workforce Connections, the LVGEA, and chambers of commerce throughout Southern Nevada to offer this lifeline to small employers," said Mary Beth Sewald, president and CEO of the Vegas Chamber.

Quotes from businesses participating in the Layoff Aversion Pilot:

"During these challenging times we feel a responsibility to help our employees provide for their families by keeping their income steady even though we are experiencing a serious deficit in our usual cash flow. The assistance we have received will allow us to maintain wages for the next few weeks, letting us use the little bit of income we do have to keep our bills paid helping us remain solvent and giving us a better chance at weathering this storm."

- Danielle Atkinson, Danielle's Chocolates and Popcorn

"Having assistance from the Layoff Aversion Pilot will help us as a small business in ensuring that we are able to continue to grow into the second half of the year. It will

also allow us to assure our staff that their jobs are not temporary, but that we will recover completely and live on to thrive, grow and give us hindsight beyond 2020. We are thankful to this pilot as it allows us to continue sharing happiness throughout the Las Vegas Valley.”

- Michelle Joy Howard, Flora Couture

“This pilot program has provided a sense of relief. Nonprofits are employers, too. When we found out we did not receive PPP money in the first round, we immediately reached out to the Vegas Chamber for help. This is truly an example of the local community taking care of the local community. These reimbursement funds will help keep our employees on payroll so we can continue to support families with autism. The funding actually creates a trickledown effect; we are able to keep our employees on the payroll, they in turn are available to support the families going through tough times in this crisis.”

- Terri Janison, Grant a Gift Autism Foundation, President and CEO

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About Workforce Connections (WC)

As the Local Workforce Development Board, Workforce Connections convenes the public workforce development system in Southern Nevada. During this COVID-19 crisis, Workforce Connections is working with its partners to develop short and long term business-driven solutions to help keep Southern Nevadans employed while implementing recovery efforts to help employers successfully reopen and rehire. For more information, visit nvworkforceconnections.org.

About DETR

The Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation (DETR) is the state’s lead workforce development agency. It consists of divisions that offer workforce related services, job placement and training, services for people with disabilities, investigation of claims of discrimination, unemployment insurance benefits, labor market data and more. Many of these services are provided through Nevada JobConnect career centers and in cooperation with its community partners.

About Bank of Nevada

Bank of Nevada, a division of Western Alliance Bank, Member FDIC, helps business clients realize their ambitions. Founded in 1994, Bank of Nevada offers a full spectrum of loan, deposit and treasury management capabilities, plus superior service. With 10 offices in Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas and Mesquite, along with Western Alliance Bank’s powerful array of specialized financial services, the banking division is a valued resource for Southern Nevada’s business, real estate, professional, municipal and nonprofit communities. In a first among Nevada financial institutions, Bank of Nevada in 2018 earned the Community Commitment Award for Financial Education

from the American Bankers Association Foundation for its work with Title I schools through the Green Our Planet organization. Western Alliance Bank is the primary subsidiary of Phoenix-based Western Alliance Bancorporation. One of the country's top-performing banking companies, Western Alliance has ranked in the top 10 on the Forbes "Best Banks in America" list for five consecutive years, 2016-2020, and was named #1 best-performing of the 50 largest public U.S. banks for 2019 by S&P Global Market Intelligence. For more information, visit bankofnevada.com.

For more information:

Kathy Topp
Red 7 Communications
kathy@red7communications.com
(702) 271-8305 - cell

Mitch Truswell
Red 7 Communications
mitch@red7communications.com
(702) 531-4461 - cell