



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Anita Gallagher, Chief Policy Analyst to the Mayor, City Manager’s Office  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution – City of Tacoma Sponsorship of WorkForce Central Enrollment in Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust  
**DATE:** July 11, 2017

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**SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this memo is to inform the City Manager of a request made by Mayor Strickland and Council Member Joe Lonergan that the City of Tacoma sponsor the Tacoma-Pierce County Employment and Training Consortium (dba WorkForce Central) for enrollment in the Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust. The AWC allows non-city entities to participate in their Employee Benefit Trust programs if they are sponsored by a member city.

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Mayor Marilyn Strickland and Council Member Joe Lonergan

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Tacoma is a member of WorkForce Central, which was created by an Interlocal Government Agreement in 1982. As outlined in that agreement, WorkForce Central provides regional employment and training services in Tacoma and Pierce County, services that had previously been performed by City of Tacoma staff.

WorkForce Central’s executive leadership has evaluated options for employee healthcare coverage and determined that the programs offered by the Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust would suit their needs. The AWC Employee Benefit Trust provides benefit insurance options and health management programs for local governments in a cost-efficient manner by leveraging its large purchasing collective. It allows for non-city membership under certain criteria, including sponsorship by a current city member of the AWC. The sponsoring city must pass a Resolution within six months of the non-city entity’s membership application.

**ISSUE:**

WorkForce Central would like to offer health insurance provided by the Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust to its employees, but, as a non-city entity, they need sponsorship from a member city in order to have their application considered.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Council could choose to not sponsor WorkForce Central for enrollment in the Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust. If the Council chooses this course of action, WorkForce Central will need to either continue to offer health insurance through its current provider, or choose another provider. Both alternatives could result in a higher expenditure by WorkForce Central than the recommended course of action.



**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Tacoma City Council offer its sponsorship to WorkForce Central to join the Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust so that the agency can purchase employee healthcare coverage through the program best suited for its needs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.