

**ATLANTA REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
NEXTGEN COMMITTEE**

November 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Members Present

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ms. Autumn Andrews | Ms. Norma Marquez |
| Ms. Ciara Dunn | Mr. Chris Moder |
| Mr. Anthony Ford | Ms. Leslie Nelson |
| M. Tim Hemans | Ms. Stephanie Rooks |
| Mr. Robert Hughes | Ms. Kristy Smith – Vice-Chair |
| Mr. Jamal Jessie – Chair | |
| Ms. Tangel Jones | |

Members Absent

Mr. Fred Dawins
Ms. Jennifer Houston

Guests

Ms. Debbie Anglin – HEARTS
Ms. Kathi Korczyk-Schaefer – Cherokee Focus
Ms. Mille Hughes – Cherokee Focus

ARC Staff

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Ms. Candice Coppin - NextGen Program | Ms. Marsharee O'Connor - NextGen Program |
| Mr. Brett Lacy– ARWDB Director | Ms. Brittney Oquendo - NextGen Program |

The meeting was held at the Atlanta Regional Commission

Ms. Kristy Smith called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- A. The NextGen Committee (NGC) continues to operate paperless, except for meetings held outside of ARC office. For copies of the information discussed during the meeting, visit the ARC website <https://atlantaregional.org/workforce-economy/boards-and-committees/youth-committee/>, under *Meeting Archives* or send a request to ARC Staff Ms. Marsharee O'Connor via email at MO'Connor@atlantaregional.org.
- B. Mr. Jamal Jessie solicited any public comments
- C. Mr. Jamal Jessie introduced Mr. Brett Lacy, WorkSource Atlanta Regional Director to NextGen committee.
- D. There were seven actions taken at this meeting
- E. NextGen Director, Ms. Marsharee O'Connor presented the updates to the NextGen Program.

NEXTGEN COMMITTEE ACTION REQUIRED:

- 1. Ms. Stephanie Rooks made the following motion:
MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes from August 06, 2025.
The motion was seconded by Mr. Chris Moder and unanimously approved.
- 2. Ms. Stephanie Rooks made the following motion:
MOTION: To approve NextGen Program Require Additional Assistance Policy (NGPP 01-05).
The motion was seconded by Ms. Ciara Dunn and unanimously approved.
- 3. Mr. Tim Hemans made the following motion:
MOTION: To approve NextGen Program High Poverty Area Policy (NGPP 02-04).
The motion was seconded by Ms. Leslie Nelson and unanimously approved.
- 4. Ms. Stephanie Rooks made the following motion:
MOTION: To approve NextGen Program Supportive Services Policy (NGPP 03-05).
The motion was seconded by Mr. Chris Moder and unanimously approved.
- 5. Ms. Ciara Dunn made the following motion:
MOTION: To approve NextGen Program Inventive Policy (NGPP 04-03).
The motion was seconded by Ms. Stephanie Rooks and unanimously approved.

6. Mr. Chris Moder made the following motion:

MOTION: To approve NextGen Program Work Experience Policy (NGPP 05-03).

The motion was seconded by Ms. Stephanie Rooks and unanimously approved.

7. Ms. Leslie Nelson made the following motion:

MOTION: To approve NextGen Program WIOA Youth Eligibility Policy (NGPP 06-02).

The motion was seconded by Mr. Tim Hemans and unanimously approved.

NEXTGEN PROGRAM PERFORMANCE, PLANNING, AND SERVICES:

- A. **NextGen Program Funding and Performance Update** – Ms. Kristy Smith introduced Ms. Marsharee O'Connor, who presented proposed updates to the NextGen policies. All recommendations were unanimously approved, including the revision to the Supportive Services policy (NGPP-03-05). The amendment modifies the statement under the Emergency Assistance (Housing) section from: *“Assistance may not exceed \$1,300 for one month or no more than \$2,000 to include one month’s back rent.”* Change to *“Assistance may not exceed \$2000 to include current and past due rent”*. Additionally, Ms. O'Connor provided updates on PY25 program. A total of \$1,400,000 has been designated for the NextGen Program, including \$1,330,000 for NGSP contracts, \$50,000 for Individual Training Accounts, and \$20,000 for Special Projects.
- B. **Special Projects Update** – Ms. Marsharee O'Connor informed the committee that the NextGen program has received a \$200,000 grant from Google to support the Pathways to Digital Economy Initiative, which aims to enhance NextGen’s Digital Career Pathways. She expressed appreciation to the committee chair, Mr. Jamal Jessie, whose affiliation with Google helped facilitate this opportunity for the NextGen Program. The program is scheduled to begin in the second week of January 2026, in collaboration with NextGen Service Providers. The NextGen team will meet with the NGSPs in December to discuss program design and implementation strategies.
- C. **NextGen Program Status Updates & Activities** – No updates given

NEXTGEN COMMITTEE PLANNING ACTIVITIES:

Taskforce Updates

- 1. Program Oversight & Guidance Taskforce
- 2. Strategic Planning Taskforce
- 3. Economic Development Taskforce
- 4. Resource Leveraging Taskforce

No updates

OTHER DISCUSSIONS:

A. CY 2026 NextGen Committee (NGC) Meeting Schedule & Location –

- February 12, 2026 – Atlanta Regional Commission
- May 14, 2026 – Atlanta Regional Commission
- August 20, 2026 – Atlanta Regional Commission
- November 12, 2026 – Atlanta Regional Commission

B. NextGen Committee Planning Activities – No updates

C. Next Board Meeting Date – The Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board (ARWDB) will meet in-person at The Atlanta Regional Commission December 03, 2025.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 2:33PM

atlantaregional.org

International Tower
229 Peachtree St, NE | Suite 100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303