

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



ACTION ITEM # 1.2

SUBMITTAL DATE: March 31, 2010

SUBJECT: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding Recommendations for additional providers for the operation of the Riverside County 2010 Summer Work Experience Program.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Riverside County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Executive Committee approve the allocation of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Youth funds, or subsequent named legislation, to additional provider(s) for the operation of the 2010 Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) and authorize the Director of Workforce Development, or her designee, to negotiate and execute agreements within 10 percent of the funding recommendations.

BACKGROUND: On February 1, 2010, President Obama released his Fiscal Year 2011 budget request to Congress. Obama's plan included an overview of the Administration's efforts to bring renewed strength and stability to the Nations' volatile economy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and detailed the Administration's proposal to revive job creation and laying a new foundation for economic growth. Specifically, the ARRA Youth program will support piloting innovative models for delivering summer and year-round work experiences, and comprehensive services to disconnected youth.

The Riverside County Economic Development Agency (EDA) anticipates funding in PY 2010 of \$4,000,000. In light of the fact that the Murray Amendment failed in the Senate on March 9, 2010, additional funds have not currently materialized. However, Congress still may introduce future legislation to augment summer youth experience activities. In the event this happens and additional funding is received EDA is poised to ensure services are ready for implementation as a Request for Proposals to solicit additional SWEP service providers was released on February 18, 2010.

In accordance with the ARRA, employment opportunities will serve both in-school and out-of-school youth, ages 16-24 during the period of May 3, 2010, through October 31, 2010. The 2010 Riverside County Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) will include work experience, work readiness training components. These core components will increase the work readiness skills of youth and expose youth to opportunities in multiple career pathways. In 2009 the Riverside County SWEP served 2,695 youth. With current funding, 2010 SWEP is projected to serve up to 1,229 youth.

If additional funds become available, EDA recommends that additional youth funds are awarded to service providers to be named and presented when this agenda item is discussed at the WIB Executive Committee meeting on March 31, 2010.

In addition to continuing the achievements of past summer, EDA hosted a SWEP service provider forum at the conclusion of the 2009 SWEP. Based on the results of this forum EDA will make several adjustments to improve 2010 SWEP program design. One of the recommended adjustments is to raise the age requirements for the SWEP to 16 to 24 years of age. This is due to lack of worksites for 14 and 15 year olds as employers did not want to place younger youth for liability issues. Other improvements will include streamlined paperwork where possible and increased training for staff and service providers.

<p>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</p> <p>Date: <i>date of meeting</i> Approval: Yes/No</p>	<p>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONCURRENCE</p> <p>YES: INDICATES ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS (FED, STATE, LOCAL) OR AGREEMENTS FOR SERVICES WHERE EDA IS RECEIVING FUNDS, OR ANY ACTION THAT REQUIRES BOS APPROVAL.</p> <p>Required: Yes/No</p>
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