

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

BOARD AGENDA # *B-3

Urgent _____ Routine X

AGENDA DATE September 18, 2001

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES X NO _____
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES _____ NO X

SUBJECT:

AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR A RURAL E-COMMERCE GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA TECHNOLOGY, TRADE AND COMMERCE AGENCY, FOR FUNDING INNOVATIVE E-COMMERCE TRAINING PROJECTS.

STAFF
RECOMMEN-
DATIONS:

1. AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR A RURAL E-COMMERCE GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA TECHNOLOGY, TRADE AND COMMERCE AGENCY, FOR FUNDING E-COMMERCE TRAINING PROJECTS.
2. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO SIGN AND EXECUTE THE APPLICATION.

FISCAL
IMPACT:

This is a request for approval to apply for a grant in the amount of \$150,000 from the California Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency Rural E-Commerce Program for aid in funding e-commerce training projects. Applying for the grant will have no financial impact on the General Fund. Modesto Junior College and Stanislaus County will provide the necessary in-kind match, and the Workforce Investment Board will be requested to provide the necessary cash contribution.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2001-703

On motion of Supervisor Simon, Seconded by Supervisor Caruso
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Blom, Simon, Caruso, and Chair Paul

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Mayfield

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

By: Deputy

File No.

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DISCUSSION: The California Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency, Division of Science, Technology and Innovation is soliciting proposals for the Rural E-Commerce program. A maximum of \$2 million in State funds is available for award on a competitive basis, and projects funded under the solicitation will be not less than \$50,000 nor greater than \$500,000 each. This program provides matching funds to local governments, nonprofit corporations and public institutions for projects that demonstrate the feasibility of using innovative e-commerce training and development projects to improve e-commerce opportunities for small and medium sized companies in rural California, and that address the special needs of the rural California's present economic structure, while promoting a more competitive and diversified economy.

The *Connecting Stanislaus* effort, approved by the Board earlier this year revealed six key initiatives to facilitate our community's participation in electronic commerce and better position us for success in a global economy. One of these initiatives was to "Expand and target technology-training programs." As an integral part of the development of this targeted training initiative, we have identified four groups that request special training on Internet-related technologies: agriculture, small and medium enterprises, healthcare providers and community-based organizations.

The *Connecting Stanislaus* task force has identified two major development areas to pursue to accomplish targeted technology training. The first is a process track in which needs, resources, gaps and opportunities for training are identified and a strategic process based on gaps and identified resources is developed. The second track is an outreach component, which can occur on several levels. One is through learning center locations identified through partnerships with the education community, and the another is via the Modesto Junior College mobile computer lab, which would go to various locations for training specific groups that would benefit from this outreach.

This targeted training plan is a good fit for one of the program areas of the Rural E-Commerce Program and funds from this grant will support the County's Connecting Stanislaus efforts to bring targeted technology training efforts online. Modesto Junior College and Stanislaus County will provide the necessary in-kind match, and the Workforce Investment Board will be requested to provide the necessary cash contribution.

**POLICY
ISSUE:**

The Board should decide if this request is consistent with their priority of economic development.

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STAFFING

IMPACT:

Existing staff will be utilized to prepare the grant application.