

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Alliance Worknet

BOARD AGENDA # B-9

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE May 5, 2009

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

(Information Attached)

Att J. Rowe

SUBJECT:

Approval to Accept \$8,807,579 in Workforce Investment Act Funds Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the Purpose of Providing Additional Employment and Training Services for Low-Income Adults, Youth and Dislocated Workers

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize the Alliance Worknet Director to accept American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds in the following amounts, Youth \$3,885,095; Adults \$1,673,335; Dislocated Workers \$3,249,149.
2. Authorize the Alliance Worknet Director to sign modifications to the Local Workforce Investment Act Five-Year Plan necessary to substantiate use of the additional funds.
3. Direct the Auditor-Controller to increase appropriations and estimated revenue as detailed in the Budget Journal Form.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of this recommendation provides \$8,807,579 to Stanislaus County for employment and training services to County residents. The Alliance Worknet plans only to budget what is needed for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, \$2,593,507. The remaining balance of funds will be included in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Proposed Budget. Funding originates from the Federal Department of Labor and is passed through the State of California Employment Development Department to local areas via a formula. Approval of this item will have no impact on the County General Fund.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2009-302

On motion of Supervisor Grover, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Grover, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

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DISCUSSION:

The Alliance Worknet has been allocated \$8,807,579 in Workforce Investment Act funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These funds must be spent in accordance with Workforce Investment Act rules and must be expended by June 30, 2011. The funds have been allocated for expenditure in the following three categories:

Low-Income Youth: Funding of \$3,885,095 has been awarded to provide employment services to low-income youth ages 14 through 24. The emphasis for expenditure of these funds, under ARRA, is a summer employment program. The Alliance Worknet, under the direction of the Stanislaus Economic Development and Workforce Alliance and its Youth Advisory Council, has developed the StanislausYouth@Work summer program. Six service providers (CareerQuest, Ceres Unified School District, Computer Tutor, Central Valley Opportunity Center, Modesto City Schools, and City of Patterson) have been selected to provide summer employment services to 942 low-income youth throughout Stanislaus County. These services, as prescribed by the ARRA, include training on work readiness skills as well as a paid summer work experience placement in jobs throughout the public, non-profit, and private sectors.

In addition to the StanislausYouth@Work program, 10% of the ARRA Youth allocation has been reserved for a future intervention program targeted at youth who are at risk of becoming gang – involved. Funding will also be reserved to perform an analysis of the outcomes of these programs.

Adults And Dislocated Workers: Funding has been allocated to provide employment and training services to two target populations--\$1,673,335 for low-income adults and--\$3,249,149 for dislocated workers who have lost their jobs. Receipt of these funds will provide 119 low-income adults and 243 dislocated workers with career counseling, labor market information, employment planning, job skill re-training, and job placement assistance. Job training will be provided through contracts with local community colleges, universities, and vocational schools. Some examples of such training programs that will prepare individuals for jobs that are projected to be in high demand are; Auto Mechanic, Computer Network Specialist, Electronic Inventory Control Specialist, Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) Installer, Medical Laboratory Technician, Industrial Maintenance Mechanic, Medical Billing Specialist, Nurse, Pharmacy Technician, Radiological Technician, Respiratory Care Therapist, and Solar Panel Installer.

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There are currently many unemployed Stanislaus County residents who possess good job skills yet cannot find employment due to the poor economy. Employers who do have jobs to fill can select from applicants who have job skills *and* experience. In order to increase the competitiveness of individuals who complete a job training program, paid internships and on-the-job training placements will be developed for 107 dislocated workers and 60 low-income adults. This experience will allow individuals to build upon the skills learned in a training program and should help lead to permanent employment.

The Alliance Worknet projects that 77% of the ARRA funds received will be used to pay for job training, wages, and supportive services to individuals. The remaining 23% will be used to pay the salaries of Alliance Worknet staff and contractor staff working directly with customers, as well as the costs of program administration and overhead.

POLICY ISSUE:

Approval of this item supports the Board of Supervisor's priority of a Strong Local Economy by providing services that help prepare the workforce for jobs with local employers, thus benefiting local businesses and job seekers.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Approximately 11 temporary, extra help staff will be hired to help provide services to the additional customers to be served.

