

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 5/13/10

FROM: WIB Staff

For Discussion

For Action

For Information

SUBJECT: Regional Veterans Grant Update

PROPOSED MOTION(S): For Information Only

DISCUSSION: On November 3, 2008, the Executive Committee was informed that a collaborative consisting of the Merced County Department of Workforce Investment, Madera County Workforce Investment Board and the Stanislaus County Alliance Worknet submitted a proposal to the Governor's office for Veterans Employment-Related Assistance.

On November 21, 2008, the Department of Workforce Investment received notification that the proposal submitted was not selected for funding.

With \$5 million in American Recover and Reinvestment Act funds, the Governor's office decided to fund additional projects and selected from applications that were not awarded from the original selection process (instead of re-issuing another lengthy "solicitation for proposal"). On November 11, 2009, the Department of Workforce Investment (WI) was informed that the regional grant to assist veterans was awarded to Madera County Superintendent of Schools/Workforce Development Office (MCSOS/WDO) through the Governor's office with an amount of \$175,116 designated for Merced County.

The overall purpose of the proposed project is to implement a regional project to identify and recruit recently discharged, campaign-era, and disabled veterans, including veterans with significant employment barriers in Madera, Merced, and Stanislaus Counties. This regional project will provide a comprehensive menu of personalized and accelerated services and/or training in regionally identified high-demand industry sectors (Healthcare, Manufacturing, Renewable/Alternative Energy, Agriculture and Agri-business, and Transportation/Logistics) to facilitate employment and advancement of veterans throughout the region in high-wage, high growth occupations. This project shall be known as the "*Central Valley Vet Connect*".

The source of funding for this project is Governor's Discretionary Workforce Investment Act (WIA/ARRA) 15 percent funds. This project began December 1, 2009 and will end June 30, 2011. The Madera County Superintendent of Schools/Workforce Development Office is the fiscal administrator of the grant. The grant required an agreement between Merced County and the MCSOS/WDO to serve a minimum of 22 participants for services such as employment-related workshops, assessments, career counseling, supportive services, Individual Training Account (ITA) vouchers, On-the-Job Training (OJTs) and direct job placement.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A