

TO: Executive Committee

DATE: 01/09/06

FROM: WIB Staff

Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Grant

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information only.

DISCUSSION: A proposal for the Merced County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to support the San Joaquin Valley's unified application for the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant from the Department of Labor will be presented to the WIB during its January 12, 2006 meeting.

The grant proposal includes Workforce Investment Boards from Merced, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Kern, Tulare, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties. The grant application has been approved by the Governor and forwarded to DOL in the week following Christmas. The total amount requested is \$15,000,000 over a period of three years.

The application committed the Merced County Department of Workforce Investment and stated that the final participation in the application was contingent upon action to be taken by the Merced County Workforce Investment Board in January 2006. The WIB will be asked to commit to the following:

- a. Actively participating in the WIRED collaboration**
- b. Participating in the occupational demand assessment to determine where additional training resources are most needed in the region to serve target industries –**
 - 1) Goods Movement/Logistics**
 - 2) Healthcare**
 - 3) Manufacturing/Food Processing**
 - 4) Information Services**
- c. Providing a minimum of 25% of matching funds to any of the WIRED funds accessed.**

It is estimated that the WIB's annual investment of training dollars and in-kind contributions for participation in the WIRED partnership and services to co-enroll participants in training is approximately \$125,000 for the WIRED program.

ATTACHMENTS: N/A