

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 03/10/05

FROM: Youth Council

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Youth Contracts Renewal Recommendation

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Approve the renewal of the Younger Youth and Out-of-School Youth contracts and direct staff to negotiate the contracts contingent upon funding.

DISCUSSION: The Workforce Investment Board presently has contracts with Merced County Office of Education for Workforce Investment Act youth programs. The contracts will expire June 30, 2005, and contractually may be extended one year at a time, for an additional two years.

The County's allocation for next year's youth programs is expected to be the same as this year's. But, the size of next year's contracts should be smaller than present due to past decisions to maximize current programs by the maximum use of carryover funds. Next year's contracts will have limited carryover available, and will have to rely solely on the new allocations. It is expected that overall funding to youth programs could be \$1 million less than the present \$2.5 million devoted to the 2004-05 youth contracts.

Both contracts are recommended for renewal. The programs are meeting their enrollment requirements, are achieving performance measures, and continue to improve. With 50 Workforce Investment Areas in California, the Merced Younger Youth Program has grown to be the sixth (6th) largest in the state, and the Out-of-School Program ranks thirteenth (13th) in enrollment. Additionally, the Empower Program was chosen by the California Workforce Association (CWA) to present at the 2005 CWA Youth Conference as a successful older youth program.

Period of the new contracts will be July 1, 2005–June 30, 2006. Size of the new programs is contingent upon youth program allocation.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A