

Program Services and Training for FY 2003-2004

The Merced County Department of Workforce Investment has received its 2003-2004 allocation from the state with reductions of approximately 28% in Youth, 25% in Adult, and 31% in Dislocated Worker funding. The Youth Council will be addressing Youth Funding.

This year (2002-2003) there was \$442,397 spent on 130 Adult and Dislocated Worker customers for training in Individual Training Accounts, On-the Job Training, and Supportive Services only. This number met the goal that was established in our plan. In addition, the WIB had special contracts for RN, LVN and POST training.

The recommendations for 2003-2004 are:

- 1. Maintain the level of Universal Core A services provided at the Worknet Employment Resource Centers. There has been a steady increase in demand. There was a 49% increase in units of service for March 2002 compared to March 2003.**
- 2. Increase enrollments in Core B, Intensive, and Business Services. Provide mini workshops in basic work skills identified by employers to improve job search and retention services. This would decrease the “cost per participant enrolled” which will offset the more expensive skills training.**
- 3. Focus on basic skills to improve the reading, math and communication skills of job seekers through Plato Labs. This will address employer identified basic education skill deficiencies.**
- 4. Training services provided to Merced County residents only, with exceptions for those customers that may reside next to county lines, or when co-enrolled with bordering counties, therefore sharing costs.**
- 5. Increase the number of employers that use Worknet Business Services through outreach and marketing in conjunction with Worknet partners.**
- 6. Serve between 130 and 148 customers in training services with a budget of approximately \$405,000 with a combination of services as identified in number 7.**
- 7. Increase Employer Based Services with an emphasis on Employed Worker Training, Upgrade Skills Training, On-the-Job Training, Customized Assessments and/or Training, and Tax Credit Incentives.**
 - Individual Training Accounts in selected occupations for industries that are identified by the WIB via coordination with Industry Sectors identified by the “People, Place, Prosperity” Economic Development Report.**
 - Increase cross referrals for Support Services only.**
 - Increase concurrent enrollments with partners and other programs as appropriate.**
- 8. Continued LVN, RN and POST training through contracts. The LVN Contract expires December 2003 (Address a contract for the Spring 2004 semester this fall).**

