

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 05/13/04

FROM: WIB Executive Committee

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Selection of WIA Youth Program Providers

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Ratify the Executive Committee's actions to accept the recommendations of the RFP Evaluation Committee and to direct Workforce Investment to bring the recommendations and negotiated contracts to BOS for approval.

DISCUSSION: On January 8, 2004, the Workforce Investment Board directed that a Request for Proposal be issued for 2004-05 WIA Youth Programs. That RFP was issued February 27, 2004 and closed April 6, 2004. February 11, 2004, the Youth Council selected an Evaluation Committee to rate proposals to the RFP. That committee met April 13 and selected MCOE/ROP as the provider for both the younger youth and out-of-school youth programs.

MCOE/ROP is the current provider for both programs. They propose to serve 520 active younger youth participants during the 2004-2005 program year, to include 250 new enrollments. In addition, 250 youth will receive follow-up services. Cost of program will be approximately \$1,470,000. The program for out-of-school youth will serve 313 active participants, with new enrollments totaling 108, with 127 youth in follow-up, at an estimated cost of \$630,000.

On April 26, 2004, the Executive Committee accepted the recommendations of the RFP Evaluation Committee and directed Workforce Investment to bring the recommendations and negotiated contracts to BOS for approval.

ATTACHMENT(S): RFP Summary

Request for Proposal 5905
for
In-School Youth Program
and/or
Out-of-School Youth Program

RFP Summary

Request for Proposal #5905 for In-School Youth Program and/or Out-of-School Youth Program was let February 27, 2004 and closed April 6, 2004. The request solicited proposals from organizations interested in providing services for two targeted youth populations for WIA year-round programs. The services requested included academic enrichment, job skills/readiness training, job placement, leadership development, mentoring supportive services, counseling and follow-up. These services are to be provided in one or both WIA programs (in-school and out-of-school) for educationally and/or economically disadvantaged Merced County youth, 14-21 years of age.

The RFP provided background information concerning the prior and present enrollments of current programs and explained that any future providers would be required to accept case loads and follow-up requirements if chosen to replace a present provider. An extensive Scope of Work was presented with Target Groups of eligible participants defined. Those to be served are County-wide youth, school dropouts, those deficient in basic literacy skills, court involved youth, those in foster care or who have ever been in foster care, homeless or runaway, pregnant or parents, and, individuals who require additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure employment.

The RFP then explained required Performance Measures, the design components for each youth program, the ten WIA required program elements, the requirements for a detailed work plan and budget/budget narrative.

Three responses were received to the RFP. All proposals were evaluated/rated against the Work Statement and program requirements of the RFP. Scoring was accomplished using the published Evaluation Criteria from Section 7.3 of the RFP. MCOE/ROP proposed programs for both in-school and out-of-school programs. CVOC proposed a program for only the out-of-school youth program.

MCOE's in-school proposal is to serve 520 active participants, to include 270 continuing participants. In addition to the 520, approximately 250 youth will receive follow-up services. The program will be for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 at a cost of \$1,470,000. Cost per participant is \$2,826.92 and is mainly a result of 40% of the program costs being participant Work Experience wages. The proposal met or exceeded every requirement of the RFP. The present and proposed in-school program are linked with local organizations to include Recovery Assistance for Teens, Youth Accountability Board, County Probation, Public Health, Mental Health, Merced College, Boys & Girls Club, and EDD. Lastly, the services and the individuals involved for each program partner, Dos Palos/Oro Lomo Unified School District, Employment Development Department, and the Merced Unified High School District were included in the RFP response.

MCOE's out-of-school proposal is to serve 313 active participants to include 205 continuing participants. In addition, approximately 127 youth will receive follow-up services. The program covers the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 at a cost of \$630,000. Cost per participant is \$2,012.78, much less than previous programs offered through other providers. The proposal met or exceeded every requirement of the RFP. Two new program elements not required by WIA are in MCOE's proposed program; On-the-job training opportunities and financial literacy skills. They are also incorporating the computerized PESCO assessment system which significantly increases assessment capabilities. The proposal included detailed work statements and work plans for MCOE and each of its partners, Community Action Agency, EDD, Merced Adult School, and Merced College. The work plan laid out a detailed schedule for each of the 15 program elements to be offered to each participant. Examples of the Individual Service Strategy and Customer Evaluation Survey were also included in the Proposal.

CVOC's proposal is to serve 50 rural youth to be enrolled and served during the program year at a cost of \$251,681. Cost per participant would be \$5,033.62. The proposal did not meet all the requirements of the RFP. CVOC did request an exception to the RFP in that it proposed to only target rural communities. In general, the proposal addressed the RFP program design components, program elements, a detailed work plan, and program activities. However, the proposal did not respond totally to the requirements of the RFP. Performance measures for enrolled youth ages 17-18 were not addressed. Older youth performance measures were addressed, but not in the format requested by the RFP. The timelines for the program were indefinite. Lastly, a compressed participant flow caused concern for evaluators. The participant flow assumes 25 participants transferred from an unspecified program with 50 new clients enrolling during the year and 50 of those 75 exiting the same year. The Evaluation Committee ranked the CVOC proposal below the minimum score required for funding.