

TO: Executive Committee

DATE: 6/05/06

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Veterans Workforce Investment Program – Joint Grant Application

PROPOSED MOTION (S): Information only.

DISCUSSION: The Alliance Network (AW) of Stanislaus County, acting as lead agency in a collaboration with Merced, San Joaquin and Tuolumne Counties, is applying for Dept of Labor (DOL) grant monies for veterans programs.

The Veterans Employment and Training Service, US Department of Labor, is authorized to competitively award Veterans Workforce Investment Program grants to public agencies and private nonprofit organizations (including faith-based and community organizations) that the Secretary determines to have an understanding of the unemployment problems of veterans, familiarity with the area to be served, linkages with the One-Stop Career Centers, and the capability to administer a program of workforce investment activities for such veterans effectively. The maximum grant available is \$750,000, and only 9 grants will be awarded. Announcement of award is expected by June 20, 2006.

“Operation Vet Connect” proposes to enroll a minimum of 140 veterans, and provide training opportunities to 115. Operation Vet Connect staff will target high growth, high wage industries, including transportation, healthcare, construction and advanced manufacturing—all listed in the President’s High Growth Training initiative, and in demand in the regional labor market.

Merced County, according to the 2000 census, has 15,307 veterans, 38% from the Vietnam era.

ATTACHMENT (S): N/A