

**TO: WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

**DATE: 07/14/05**

**FROM: WIB STAFF**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT:** WIA Demonstration Grant for Vision and Hearing Impaired Participants.

**PROPOSED MOTION(S):** None. Information Only.

**DISCUSSION:** On April 28, 2004 Merced County applied for, and subsequently was awarded, a Local Workforce Investment Area Demonstration Grant in the amount of \$76,247 to provide staff training and equipment to provide better services to people with vision and hearing disabilities. The grant period ran from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005. Training and purchases provided by this grant have been completed and all funds were utilized. In addition to the funds provided by this grant, approximately \$6,000 of incentive funds were used to provide other equipment and services for this project.

Some of the items purchased and training included in this project are:

- Video Magnification Units (1 in Merced and 1 in Los Banos)
- Televisions capable of showing VHS and DVD videos
- Closed Captioning of the Worknet Orientation Videos
- JAWS Screen Reading Software
- TTY Phone for Los Banos
- Staff Training: Center for the deaf and Hard of Hearing Sensitivity Training
- Staff Training: Services/Accommodations for Hearing Impaired
- Staff Training: California Telephone Access Program
- Staff Training: using PESCO assessment software and equipment for the visually impaired
- Staff Training: Online Navigator Training (EDD)
- Interpretype Units
- Listening devices for use in workshops (Merced, Los Banos and Livingston)

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None