

TO: WIB Executive Committee

DATE: 08/25/03

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Grant Application Approval, Disability Program Navigator

PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Executive Committee authorize the submittal for a grant application to the California Employment Development Department (EDD) to fund a Disability Program Navigator position at the Worknet Employment Resource Center. Further, that the Committee authorize the Chair, Workforce Investment Board, to sign all applicable copies of the application.

DISCUSSION: On August 18, 2003, EDD, in collaboration with the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, announced the availability of funds for the creation of up to ten (10) Disability Program Navigator positions in California One-Stop Career Centers. Funds requested shall not exceed \$75,000.

Local Workforce Investment Boards may apply for funds for the new positions. If awarded, the funds will be used to recruit, hire, and retain an individual to perform the roles and responsibilities of the Navigator position. Navigators will conduct outreach to agencies and organizations that serve persons with disabilities, to help persons with disabilities access and navigate the complex programs that impact their ability to gain, return to, or retain employment.

The navigators will serve as disability resource specialists and will leverage Worknet resources and relationships with local providers and the employer community to facilitate outreach, effective employment linkages, and seamless service delivery for persons with disabilities.

The grant will be for one year. All Navigators will be required to attend specialized training developed by the Department of Labor and the Social Security Administration. The training course is approximately one week in duration and is provided at no cost.

ATTACHMENT(S): Executive Summary

Executive Summary
Application to the Disability Program Navigator Grant Allocation

On August 18, 2003, the Employment Development Department, in cooperation with the California Governor's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities, announced the availability of funds for the creation of ten Disability Program Navigator positions in One-Stop Career Centers throughout California. Local Workforce Investment Boards are eligible for these funds.

The Disability Program Navigators will conduct outreach to agencies and organizations that serve persons with disabilities, utilizing the collective experience of these entities to help persons with disabilities access and navigate the complex programs that impact their ability to gain, return to, or retain employment. The Navigators will develop linkages and collaborate with the employer community on an ongoing basis to facilitate job placements, access to assistive technology, and educate the employer community on disability-related issues. Through the various partnerships and linkages established, the Navigators will serve as a resource to the workforce investment community to ensure the availability of comprehensive knowledge of federal, state, local and private programs that impact the ability of persons with disabilities to enter and remain in the workforce.

The WIB is eligible to apply for up to \$75,000 to fund one year of wages and benefits for one Disability Program Navigator. The WIB may also request funds (no more than 10% of the \$75,000 request) for administering the grant. Applications are due to the Employment Development Department by September 5th, with notification expected in October 2003.