

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 09/15/05

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Merced County Nursing Program Expansion and Medical Assistant Lattice Project Grant.

PROPOSED MOTION (S): Information only.

DISCUSSION: The Merced County Department of Workforce Investment (WI) has been awarded Governor's Discretionary funds to address:

- 1) The critical nursing shortage in Merced County by continuation of the expanded nursing program at Merced College to graduate more local nurses.**
- 2) Issues related to training, retention and an educational lattice for Medical Assistants.**

The grant provides \$650,969 for collaboration with Merced College to expand the registered nursing program. These dollars free up local allocations committed to RNs training to train for other occupations. Merced College will refer appropriate applicants to WI for orientation, assessment, and possible enrollment. WI case managers will provide counseling and address issues that the enrollees may have to mediate problems and ensure successful completion of the training. Supportive services are also included. Merced College will provide 180 hours of theory and 648 hours of clinical training for 48 RNs over a two-year period.

To address the issues identified with Medical Assistant training and educational lattice, WI will meet with Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and Stanislaus Counties to develop a regional study. The study will gather information to determine current physicians' and employers' Medical Assistant training qualifications and retention needs. A report will be created from this regional study, which will be used both locally and statewide to address the feasibility of consistency in Medical Assistant training, and building a career lattice for Medical Assistants. The Medical Assistant project received \$32,746.

The grant duration is from March 2005 to February 2007.

ATTACHMENT (S): N/A