

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 09/15/05

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Limited English Proficiency and Hispanic Worker Initiative Grant Application.

PROPOSED MOTION (S): Information only.

DISCUSSION: The US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA), announced the availability of \$5 million in demonstration grant funds to test unique and innovative training strategies for services to individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and Hispanic Americans, specifically those who lack basic and occupational skills needed by high-growth occupations. This demonstration program is targeted to incumbent workers, new job entrants or youth who lack the language, basic skills, and occupational skills necessary to succeed in the 21st Century workplace. This demonstration program emphasizes the use of innovative contextualized learning strategies, which simultaneously provide language and occupational skills training that open career opportunities and pathways for LEP and Hispanic Americans.

Merced County Office of Education, along with its partners Merced County Department of Workforce Investment and Merced Adult School, submitted a proposal to operate a program that will provide these workers with the literacy, employment, and basic skills training they need to succeed in the local economy for high-growth industries.

The strategies for meeting the challenges of the targeted groups are to increase English language proficiency, increase the high school graduation rates, and upgrade the skills of low-wage and low-skill workers.

The funding requested for this proposal is \$999,523. The deadline was August 15, 2005. All award notifications will be posted on the ETA homepage.

ATTACHMENT (S): N/A