

TO: Executive Committee

Date: 11/06/06

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Four County Collaborative Grant Applications

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information only.

DISCUSSION: The counties of Merced, Madera, San Joaquin and Stanislaus have collaboratively submitted four grants to the Employment Development Dept. Each county acted a lead agency on one of the four grants.

Madera County submitted for Veterans Employment – Related Assistance Program. The amount of request was \$450,000. It will be used to conduct a customized marketing plan, and campaign to locate and identify veterans, qualified veteran spouses, and veterans with unique employment challenges in an effort to provide services and/or training in high-demand occupations in order to empower veterans reintegrating into the local workforce of the four counties.

Merced County’s application is part of a regional pilot program that will focus on skills training, which will lead to employment in primarily healthcare occupations. It targets Welfare-to-Work individuals who have one of the following barriers: 1) Lack of workplace literacy skills, 2) Functioning below grade level, 3) Limited work history, or 4) Limited job skills. The goal is to increase the entered employment and retention rates for this population. This will be accomplished through an individual employment plan and the following menu of services: 1) Identifying and addressing barriers, 2) Workplace literacy, 3) Remedial education, 4) Training, and 5) Employment and follow-up. The amount of \$500,000 has been requested.

San Joaquin County’s application targets manufacturing. The plan is to provide training for targeted occupations—industrial machinery mechanics, maintenance and repair workers (general), maintenance workers (machinery) and welding.. The plan includes the determination of eligibility, assessment and development of an individualized employment/career plan, and training services to include occupational skills training, and may include on-the-job training, adult education, and literacy activities. The application requests \$600,000.

Stanislaus County’s application focuses on Healthcare, both Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) and Registered Nurse (RN) training. The goals of the program are twofold. First, increase the capacity of the four counties’ Community Colleges to

educate and graduate LVNs and RNs. Second, to allow local Workforce Investment Boards to continue funding, and hopefully increase funding of LVN and RN training programs. If awarded, this grant will fund the Merced County LVN contract with Merced College. The application requests \$600,000.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A