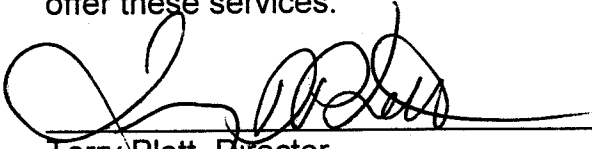


October 12, 2001

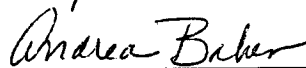
Special Programs Section
Program Development and Management Division
Employment Development Department
722 Capitol Mall, Room 2079
Sacramento, CA 95814

It is our understanding that Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC) is submitting an application in response to a request for proposals under the California Community and Faith Based Initiative. CVOC is requesting funds in order to serve Hispanic, Limited English speaking immigrant persons who are missing the opportunities for vocational development and employment assistance provided by Workforce Investment programs. Hard to serve, limited English speaking families need these vocational services but for a variety of reasons have been reluctant or fearful to seek these services. A grassroots information and education program is necessary to increase Hispanic participation in the Workforce Investment Program.

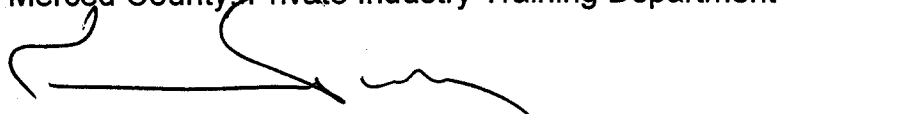
CVOC has demonstrated the ability to perform outreach, marketing and direct service to the Hispanic community. Our community needs additional resources to make the limited English speaking population of our communities aware of service available through the One Stop Service Centers, to make One Stop Service Centers more user friendly for limited English speaking persons and to adequately staff local One Stop Service Centers with bilingual staff to serve the needs of monolingual customers. Marketing the One Stop Service Centers and provision of on-site customer assistance are critical issues to ensure limited English Speaking persons are afforded and utilize the variety of One Stop services available. Therefore, we support CVOC's application to offer these services.



Terry Plett, Director
Stanislaus County, Department of Employment and Training



Andrea Baker, Director
Merced County, Private Industry Training Department



Herman Perez, Director
Madera County, Workforce Development Office