

**TO: Executive Committee**

**DATE: 4/06/09**

**FROM: WIB Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: Younger Youth Contract Amendment with Merced County Office of Education – ARRA**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S):** Approve the addition of \$142,185 of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Youth funding be added to the Younger Youth contract (No. 2008148), extend the contract to September 30, 2009, and forward recommendation to the Workforce Investment Board to ratify and submit to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

**DISCUSSION:** The present Younger Youth contract (No. 2008148) began July 1, 2008. The amendment to the contract will provide paid summer work experience to approximately 70 in-school eligible youth ages 14-18. On March 19, 2009, the Workforce Investment Board approved spending at least 85% and up to 100% of youth funds by September 2009. This amendment adds \$172,185 of ARRA funding to the contract, increasing the total amount to \$959,573. The census demographic research utilized to ensure the equitable distribution of funds for summer youth work experience showed that 14-17, 18-21, and 22-24 year-old youth account for approximately 10% of the population in each age group with a slight increase toward the 18-24 year olds. Additionally, the tidal wave of graduating seniors at the National and State levels, occurred in 2008. Therefore, the approximate planning numbers of youth being served shall be as follows:

<u>Anticipated Number of Participants in Summer Work Experience</u>			
<u>Group Level</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>18-21</u>	<u>22-24</u>
Participants	315	385	365

The Merced County Department of Administrative Services (Purchasing) and County Counsel's review of Training and Employment Guidance Letter 14-08 provided guidance on the most expeditious method to ensure ARRA funding will be utilized appropriately. This funding will be tracked separately as required by the ARRA. Work Readiness is the only performance measure that applies to this funding. Every youth participant enrolled in this project should be exited before September 30, 2009. In the event that a youth is not exited prior to the end of September, the youth will automatically be absorbed into the year-round program, and all three common performance measures shall apply.

It is anticipated that this item will be on the April 14, 2009 Merced County Board of Supervisors agenda.

**ATTACHMENT(S): N/A**