

**TO: Workforce Investment Board**

**DATE: 09/03/09**

**FROM: WIB Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: Grant Opportunity with Merced College – Department of Labor/ETA – Pathways Out of Poverty**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S):** That the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) approves partnering with Merced College to develop and deploy a Pathways Out of Poverty grant offered through the Department of Labor’s Employment Training Administration (DOL/ETA). Also, the Department of Workforce Investment negotiate the WIB’s role in the grant application and, if successful, bring the agreements back to the WIB for approval.

**DISCUSSION:** Merced College will serve as the applicant in this collaborative project designed to provide training, education and placement services to prepare individuals seeking pathways out of poverty and into employment opportunities in careers in green industries. The Merced Pathways project grant request of approximately \$3.5 million for a 24-month project will develop social, academic and employment support systems to foster success at individual, family and community levels. This project incorporates the nationally recognized Move the Mountain-Circles Campaign through a Merced-based Circles Campaign collaborative that includes consumers, businesses, faith-based organizations, educational institutions and other public and private entities. The Merced Pathways project will focus on the following energy efficiency and renewable energy industries:

- Energy-efficient building, construction, and retrofit industries;
- The renewable solar electric power industry;
- The energy efficient and advanced drive train vehicle industry; and/or
- The energy efficiency assessment industry serving residential, commercial or industrial sectors.

The total number of program participants and outcome/evaluation targets for the Merced Pathways project are pending. If awarded, the role of the WIB would include assistance with outreach, recruitment, screening/assessment, determination of WIA eligibility, provision of wrap-around services to eligible participants, program-specific and labor market data development and reporting, in-kind/financial match (encouraged, not required).

If successful, agreements between Merced College and the Department of Workforce Investment for services, will be brought back to the WIB for approval.

**Due Date: September 29, 2009**

**Amount: Maximum grant award of \$3.5 million.**

**Time Frame: 24-month period of performance.**

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