

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 9/16/09

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Disposition of Unspent Youth Funding

PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Youth Council recommend the disposition of youth funding.

DISCUSSION: It is anticipated that the State will soon require that 70% of youth funding be spent by June 30th of the fiscal year. Planning is required to secure the timely spending of WIA dollars in Merced County. The funding includes both Younger Youth (YOP), Older Youth (EMPOWER) contracts and funding retained for operations and staffing.

In order to be certain that these funds are spent in 09/10, it is recommended that the Youth Council provide recommendation(s) to the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to ensure the proper disposition of these funds. The recommendations include, but are not limited to the following:

- a) Leave contracts as they are. Release a Request for Proposal (RFP) providing other entities the opportunity to serve Workforce Investment Act (WIA) eligible youth through the use of Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for Older Youth (utilizing the State of California Eligible Training Provider List – ETPL). Use \$540,000 of formula funds for special projects allowable under WIA formula fund rules through an RFP process;**
- b) Increase the number of youth being served using the CalGRIP Model;**
- c) Increase the number of youth being served using the Green Jobs Corps Model;**
- d) Change the current funding split (50/50) between EMPOWER and YOP to 60/40, with EMPOWER allocated 60 percent of available funds. The EMPOWER contract unspent amount was considerably lower than that of the YOP contract unspent amount;**
- e) Replace current ARRA funding in the amount of \$175,000 in the EMPOWER contract (year round program) with unspent formula funding in the amount of \$175,000. In turn, the Department of Workforce Investment may continue to operate an extended summer program (to the end of March 2010) by utilizing the**

ARRA funding in a Work Experience program for 18-24 year olds (to serve 70 participants) in a stand-alone “special projects” component. This recommendation would include asking the community for more project ideas needed in Merced County;

- f) Replace current ARRA funding in the amount of \$175,000 in the EMPOWER contract (year round program) with unspent formula funding in the amount of \$267,783 (all of the unspent funding). In turn, the Department of Workforce Investment may continue to operate an extended program (to the end of March 2010) by utilizing the ARRA funding in a Work Experience program for 18-24 year olds (to serve 70 participants) in a stand-alone “special projects” component. This recommendation would include asking the community for more project ideas needed in Merced County;**
- g) Replace \$175,000 of ARRA funds in each of MCOE’s contracts with \$175,000 of formula funds. In turn, the Department of Workforce Investment may continue to operate an extended summer special projects/WEX in the amount of \$350,000 of ARRA funds. This would leave \$190,000 of formula funds for special projects allowable under WIA formula fund rules.**
- h) Replace \$175,000 of ARRA funds in MCOE Empower Contract with \$267,783 of formula funds (an increase of \$92,783). Replace \$175,000 of ARRA funds in the MCOE YOP program with \$175,000 of WIA formula funds. Use \$350,000 of ARRA funds for extended summer special projects/WEX through the Department of Workforce Investment (approximately 140 18-24 year old). This would leave \$97,217 for special projects allowable under WIA formula fund rules.**
- i) Youth Council and/or WIB training regarding youth programs;**
- j) Strategic planning session (Youth Council Retreat).**

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A