

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 12/15/10

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Discussion

For Action

For Information

SUBJECT: Bridges to Success (BTS) At-risk Youth Services

PROPOSED MOTION(S): None – Informational Only

DISCUSSION:

The State of California Employment Development Department awarded Merced County Department of Workforce Investment (WI) grant funds utilizing Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Governor's 15 Percent discretionary funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to fund a high school dropout prevention program for at-risk youth. WI in partnership with the Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) was successful in securing this grant. This partnership is advantageous to the County since WIA does not permit WI to be the administrator and sub-recipient of the youth grants. The Board of Supervisors accepted the grant on June 22, 2010.

This BTS At-risk Youth Services grant funding is used for 106 Merced County at-risk youth (at-risk of not graduating high school) engaged in academic learning and work experience through hands-on automotive and healthcare education. The MCOE has scheduled field trips for BTS youth to tour Merced College on December 4th and California State University, Fresno on December 20th.

The State is concerned that local areas were not spending all ARRA funds quickly and effectively. The Department of Labor (DOL) goal was that 70% of the ARRA funds would be spent by September 30, 2010. The State of California's expenditure rate barely exceeded the 70 percent goal. Therefore, on October 12, 2010 a corrective action plan was submitted, and WI and MCOE have exceeded their planned expenses for the at-risk youth.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A