

TO: Merced County Youth Council

DATE: March 16,2001

FROM: Operations Committee

For Action
 For Information
 Meeting Notes

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Arbor Inc. Contract

PROPOSED MOTION:

That the Youth Council concur with the Operations Committee not to amend Arbor's contract per their proposed request.

DISCUSSION:

At their committee meeting on February 23rd, Cindy Reponte, Arbor's new Director, made a formal request to the Youth Council to review its current requirements that an older youth must possess two additional barriers (other than income), to qualify for the out-of-school program. This requirement is resulting in turning away youth in need and could have a significant impact on Arbor's ability to enroll 500 youth as agreed in the Contract.

Arbor's request is that the language be revised to reflect that the Youth who have two or more required barriers have priority status for enrollment. Youth with only one additional barrier may be enrolled as long as there are not any youth with two barriers on a waiting list.

The committee, after some discussion, agreed that they would not reduce the eligibility criterion from two barriers to one. It was recommended that Ms Reponte accelerate an "outreach and recruitment" plan to include public service announcements on the radio and channel 11 and training for staff of public agencies to meet with HSA to reach CalLearn clients and even the juvenile court system. The committee asked Ms Reponte to come back in two months with a report on the results of their suggestions. If recruitment has not been successful, the committee may consider at this point to amend the contract.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

ATTACHMENT(S)

List of Barriers from the RFP

2.3 GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Youth services are being requested countywide (Merced County). Services may be provided to more than one area of the county but must be clearly identified in the proposal. WIA funds may not be used to duplicate services in an area unless it is demonstrated that alternative services would be more effective in achieving the WIB's performance goals.

2.4 TARGET GROUPS

Eligibility for services funded under this RFP are limited to low income youth, 19-21 years of age, residing in Merced County, who fall within two or more of the following:

- ◇ Deficient in basic literacy skills (below grade level 8.0);
- ◇ School drop-out;
- ◇ Homeless, runaway;
- ◇ Pregnant or parenting teen;
- ◇ Youth offender, including gang-affiliated youth;
- ◇ An individual that requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment.

Services will be targeted to:

- 1). Out-of-School Youth: Defined as eligible youth, 19-21 years of age, who is a school dropout or who has received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent but is basic skills deficient, unemployed, or underemployed. **Alternative school youth are not considered out-of- school youth.**
- 2). In-School Youth: Refers to eligible youth, age 19-21, who has not received a high school diploma or equivalent, and is attending school, including alternative school.

Note: Individuals 19 and older may also receive services through the One-Stop Centers from adult and dislocated worker funds. Eligible youth 19-21 may be concurrently enrolled in both youth and adult funded programs.