



Agenda Date: 9/20/2005
Agenda Placement: 6E

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Shelli Brobst for Randolph F. Snowden - Director
Health & Human Services
REPORT BY: Shelli Brobst, Contracts Analyst, 253-4720
SUBJECT: Request to Apply for a Workforce Investment Act Rapid Response Grant for Program Year 2005-2006

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Health and Human Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a grant application to the Employment Development Department for a maximum of \$219,825 for the term October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006 for Rapid Response Special Projects funding for the Business First Responders project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HHS is requesting authorization to apply for Rapid Response Special Project funding which would enable the Training and Employment Center's Job Connection to enhance the Business Resource Collaborative's "Business First Responders" project. This project will provide services to business with the goal of averting future layoffs. The application for this funding requires execution by the Chief Elected Official or authorized designee.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
What is the revenue source?	Workforce Investment Act Rapid Response Special Project Funds (provided through the State Employment Development Department)
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	This grant would provide funding to help local businesses respond to potential layoffs and develop strategies to avoid such layoffs.
Is the general fund affected?	No

Future fiscal impact: The agreement terminates September 30, 2006.

Consequences if not approved: The County will lose WIA funding.

Additional Information: HHSA will submit a budget transfer in September to reflect a variety of additional funding that TEC has received above budgeted Fiscal Year 2005-2006 levels.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Business First Responders project will address the mass influx of local workers requiring short-term training for successful transition to new industries, within existing companies, by enhancing existing relationships with local businesses.

TEC and the Job Connection will continue existing efforts to respond to potential layoffs and work with larger businesses to develop layoff aversion strategies. Each local workforce area established under the federal Workforce Investment Act has a "one stop" operator, a consortium of local entities that provides employment and training services in a single location. In Napa the one-stop operator is called the "Job Connection." TEC is the lead agency for the Job Connection. If awarded this grant, TEC will be working with the NVEDC and SBDC.

NVEDC will survey smaller businesses that are considering reducing their staffing levels in numbers less than those that would require a WARN notice. Under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, employers must give the State Employment Development Department and local workforce development areas 90 days notice (a "WARN Notice") of an impending layoff of 50 employees or more. This notification activates rapid response services, which TEC provides.

SBDC consultants will conduct 20 "Rx" business prescription programs for small businesses at risk for future layoffs. SBDC will conduct a review of the business, including on-site interviews and observations, and review non-traditional revenue sources. After the review, the lead consultant will prepare a written report with recommendations to improve the operating efficiency of the enterprise. One-on-one counseling is then available at no charge to help implement new strategies or recommendations.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Lorenzo Zialcita