

County of Sonoma

Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board Use Only

Meeting Date

____/____/____

Agenda Item No:

Department: Human Services

4/5 Vote Required

Contact:

Karen Fies

Phone:

(707) 565-8501

Board Date:

June 2, 2009

Deadline for Board Action:

June 2, 2009

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:

Summer Jobs Program Funding Recommendations

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

- A. Approve the Summer Jobs Program funding recommendations under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).
- B. Authorize the Director of the Human Services Department, or her designee, to sign agreements for the 2009 Summer Jobs Program and to sign any future amendments that do not significantly change program content and do not increase overall funding.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

Estimated Cost	\$	000.00	Contingencies	\$	000.00
			(Fund Name:)		
Amount Budgeted	\$	000.00	Unanticipated Revenue	\$	000.00
			(Source: State of California)		
Other Available Approp.	\$	000.00	Other Transfer(s)		000.00
(Explain Below)			(Source:)	\$	
Additional Requested:	\$	000.00	Total Source of Funds:	\$	000.00

Explanation (if required): Funds are included in the 2009-2010 Human Services Department proposed budget. Sources of funds are ARRA and WIA. While agreements start in the 2008-2009 program year, no expenditures will be reimbursed until July 2009. The ARRA funding began in PY 2008-09 and spans multiple fiscal years, so there is no restriction on services and their reimbursement. There is no cost to the County.

Prior Board Action(s):

The Board has approved summer jobs funding under previous federally-funded programs.
1982-1999 Job Training & Partnership Act (JTPA)
1973-1982 Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA)
Summer jobs programs have not been conducted since 1999, due to funding limitations.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:

Non-approval would prevent the provision of summer employment opportunities in order to build participants' job skills and, thereby, stimulate the economy.

Background: *Copies of the agreements are on file with the Clerk of the Board*

The Board of Supervisors is requested to approve the 2009 Summer Jobs Program funding recommendations and service levels and authorize the Director of the Human Services Department, or her designee, to sign agreements for the 2009 Summer Jobs Program and sign any future amendments that do not significantly change program content and do not increase overall funding.

The Summer Jobs Program is funded through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), with the purpose of providing summer jobs for WIA-eligible youth and young adults. Funds are made available through the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), and are under the general administration of the State of California and, locally, by the Sonoma County Human Services Department, under the policy direction of the Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and its Youth Education & Employment Services Council (Youth Council).

Summer employment will be provided through projects which benefit the community, lead to a sense of accomplishment, instill a strong work ethic, encourage the return to school, and enhance the future employability of youth and young adults, aged 14-24, participating in the program, as well as increase and/or reinforce the youth participants' awareness of the relationship between educational and vocational skills acquisition.

Summer Jobs Program Design

The program will be provided to both out-of-school and in-school youth and young adults. Out-of-school youth are defined as eligible youth, who are drop-outs, or those who have received secondary school diplomas (or the equivalent) but are basic skills deficient, unemployed, or under-employed. Participants will work in project crews of 5-9 participants, depending on project requirements.

Under a unique partnership, priority for work projects is given to public projects, organized by New Ways to Work, a community-based agency that focuses on youth employment, in collaboration with the Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and other agencies participating in the Summer Youth Ecology Corps and include activities such as:

- Creek and habitat restoration, native plant re-vegetation
- Building and maintenance of gardens, home maintenance, meal preparation, customer service, administrative assistance in public and private community agencies.
- Work on green construction projects: building, remodeling, and repair for low-income housing, for the elderly, and for community-based organizations.

In addition to the work project crew structure, service providers may also use individual work experience sites in public and private non-profit worksites as an option. For example, a clerical or administrative worksite might be developed at a local non-profit to provide work experience for a participant who cannot perform physically-demanding labor.

Program participants are expected to demonstrate effectiveness in achieving work readiness skills as

Attachments: None

On File With Clerk: Agreements

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Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

evidenced by completing requirements to receive the Sonoma County Office of Education’s Work-Ready certificate, through a program designed to verify that students have the entry-level workplace skills that Sonoma County employers require, including demonstration of the following skills:

Willingness to work, integrity, communication in spoken and written English, promptness, avoidance of absenteeism, avoidance of language that stereotypes others, ability to read and understand written information, appropriate grooming and hygiene, respect for the opinions and contributions of others, a responsibility for completing one’s own work accurately, willingness and ability to learn, possession and application of computer skills, customer service skills, ability to work well with others as part of a team, ability to use and apply basic math.

Regional Funding Recommendations

To ensure county-wide coverage, the six (6) regions noted below will be served by the Summer Jobs Program. Regions are determined according to school district boundaries and supervisorial districts.

The Request for Proposals issued on March 18, 2009 resulted in the receipt of nine proposals for the six regions with competing proposals in North County, Santa Rosa, and one proposal to serve all 6 regions from Manpower: that proposal was scored against all other proposals for each region. The Summer Jobs Program Proposal Review Committee, a subcommittee of the Youth Council, reviewed and rated these proposals, and recommended the following funding scenarios to the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Executive Committee. The WIB Executive Committee is recommending that the Board of Supervisors fund awards as shown below:

Region	Service Provider	Service Levels	Funding
North County	Center for Social & Environmental Stewardship	32	\$103,079
South County	Petaluma People Services Center	32	\$103,079
Santa Rosa	Social Advocates for Youth	96	\$309,237
West County	West County Community Services	32	\$103,079
Rohnert Park/Cotati	Sonoma County Adult & Youth Development	32	\$103,079
Sonoma Valley	Social Advocates for Youth	32	\$103,079
	Total	256	\$824,632

The proposals submitted by the regional service providers recommended for funding (see chart, above) scored higher than the other three proposals and offered the advantage of the shared knowledge and experience reflected in a non-financial Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) developed among the five regional service providers proposing for the Summer Jobs Program to conduct the program as a joint initiative. This MOA offers a unified, project-based strategy to meet the goals of the Work-Ready certification system; provide consistent data collection and reporting protocols; and allows exchange of information among the regions that can enhance safety, training and best practices for each region. The regional service providers also have many years of direct experience in conducting local work experience programs: giving them the ability to anticipate and correct any problems that may occur, due to the institutional knowledge of the organizations.

Recommendation:

The Board of Supervisors is requested to approve the Summer Jobs Program funding recommendations and service levels and authorize the Director of the Human Services Department, or her designee, to sign agreements for the 2009 Summer Jobs Program and to sign any future amendments that do not significantly change program content and do not increase overall funding.