

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL DATE: APRIL 10, 2000

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM

PLAN 2000

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information purposes only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Effective July 1, 2000, the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) replaces the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). One area of significant change in the federal WIA regulations is youth employment. WIA replaces the former dedicated allocation for free-standing summer-only youth work experience programs with a more comprehensive, sustained, year round youth employment focus designed to promote the long-term successful transition of youth into the paid labor force. Last year the federal funding was \$1,048,751 for youth employment allocated between the 1999-2000 JTPA Year Round Youth (\$116,597) and Summer Youth Employment Training Program (SYETP, funded for Summer 1999 at \$932,154), for the Foothill Service Delivery Area. Approximately 70 percent of this funding was allocated for Pasadena. Current preliminary funding for the Foothill Area is estimated at \$929,000 (pending final federal allocations of funds), projecting an overall reduction of approximately \$120,000 in youth employment funding for comprehensive WIA youth employment activities.

While the overall funding allocation reduction for youth employment may not appear significant, the elimination of the dedicated, free-standing Summer Youth Employment Training Program may have a major impact for Summer 2000 on the number of youth jobs formerly available under JTPA and SYETP. Under JTPA, SYETP accounted for approximately 90% of all youth funding. It was primarily a paid work experience program with a small academic enrichment component. Under WIA, "summer youth opportunities" is only one of ten activities that may be made available to youth under an integrated year-round activity. A summer youth opportunity must include direct linkages to academic and occupational learning, as well as follow-up services for at least 12 months. Early projections indicate a reduction from the Summer 1999 level of 510 Pasadena youth employed (including both the federally funded SYETP program and the City of Pasadena funded Summer ROSE program) to approximately 395 positions for

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Summer 2000. Through the programs described in the following Agenda Report, early estimates of Summer 2000 youth employment project a total of 395 summer youth employment slots, including approximately 160 in the Summer ROSE programs, 70 through the TANF program, 15 through the On-the-Job Training program, and 150 through the partnership program with the State Employment Development Department and other providers. Priority use for City Summer ROSE funds will be to youth positions that directly support the delivery of essential food, nutrition and related programs serving children from limited income households. Other specific types of placements and jobs cannot be identified at this time, as positions are still being actively solicited in various work settings and placement in a job requires a suitable match between the skills, abilities and job interests of each youth applicant with an available position.

BACKGROUND

The employment and training system is transitioning from the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which takes full effect on July 1, 2000. Summer 2000 will represent the first summer youth programming under WIA for all states and local areas. Under WIA, a stand-alone summer youth program is not authorized or funded. Services for youth must become more comprehensive and lead to a positive outcome. Summer youth employment represents one of ten required program elements that comprise a local area's year-round youth services strategy.

The Foothill Workforce Investment Board (WIB) has developed an early awareness campaign with a summer employment strategy for local area youth that includes multiple options. The intent is to provide the community with information regarding an alternative summer youth employment strategy and to provide youth with many opportunities to gain summer employment and/or participate in other employment and training related summer activities. This would be accomplished through the development of alternative program options and linkages.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM (SYETP) 2000

- ROSE (A) Program Each year the City of Pasadena contributes \$240,000 towards funding summer youth work experience positions. This funding is usually combined with the JTPA summer youth program funding and the programs administered concurrently. This year, without additional JTPA funds, approximately one hundred youth may be served through the ROSE (A) program.
- ROSE (B) Program The ROSE (B) program is a summer youth work experience program that allows for City of Pasadena departments to pay for their own youth workers through their department budget. ROSE (B) workers are incorporated into the overall program design of the ROSE (A) program. This year, Foothill WIB is advocating departments to participate in a match program which would offer City of Pasadena departments one ROSE (A) youth participant for every one ROSE (B) youth participant funded by their own department. Full participation by all City departments who utilize summer youth workers could double the number of youth served through these two programs.

- Additional Funding The County of Los Angeles has offered Foothill WIB limited funding from their TANF (Temporary Aide To Needy Families) budget to assist with the development of summer youth employment activities. A tentative allocation of \$173,473 is expected. For this funding, priority is to be given to CalWORKS Parenting/Pregnant Teens 14-19 years old. Members of families receiving public assistance and youth with their own case may also be served. The County estimates that one hundred and thirteen can be served with these funds. Foothill WIB will also attempt to solicit additional funding from other cities within the consortium.
- Youth Job Fair Foothill WIB will coordinate a comprehensive youth employment and resource expo designed to provide youth with direct access to local employers who will hire full or part time youth employees. Through a labor market survey, Foothill WIB has developed a database of local employers who are interested in hiring youth employees. Foothill WIB will also coordinate with other local youth program providers to partnership in this effort. Job fairs will be offered through out the six-city consortium. This event is scheduled to take place in the month of May.
- On-the-Job Training For youth between the ages of eighteen and twenty-two, Foothill WIB will work to develop on-the-job-training (OJT) opportunities. Foothill WIB can offset the cost of hiring by offering employers reimbursement for up to 50% of the wages paid during a specific training time. The 50% reimbursement will come the WIA Adult funds. Individuals aged eighteen and over are eligible as adults as well as youth, according to WIA.
- Youth Employment Opportunity Program (YEOP) The Employment Development Department (EDD) is a mandatory WIA partner. EDD has a youth program, which provides services to youth, ages 15 through 21, to assist them in achieving their educational and vocational goals. Program services offered include peer advising, job referrals, placement assistance and support services. In partnership with EDD, Foothill WIB will work to maximize these services. EDD and Foothill will engage in a joint effort to recruit job openings in the private sector for youth. Both organizations will utilize their marketing and telemarketing staff to make contact with employers to solicit job openings.
- Youth Employment Resource Handbook Foothill WIB in conjunction with other youth program partners will prepare a Summer Youth Employment Resource Handbook for mass distribution to all prior summer youth employment participants. The handbook will include various job search assistance activities and resources. The purpose of the handbook is to help provide youth with guidance for obtaining a job on their own and to inform them of other career guidance resources.
- **FETC Mobile Technology Unit** In July 2000, Foothill WIB will unveil a new mobile technology unit (MTU). The purpose of the MTU is to provide employment and training related services and other community resources/support services on a portable basis. The unit's interior will consist of 10 high technology workstations

featuring such capabilities as Internet access, multi-media kiosk information, self-directed employment generating activities, web-based learning, skill assessment testing software, computer software learning and tutorial programs. The unit will also be equipped with satellite and video conferencing technology for distance learning sessions, televising and receiving other remote meetings or programs. Foothill WIB plans to make the unit available on a scheduled basis to youth groups who are interested in Internet training, job search assistance, career exploration, work readiness instruction, basic remediation skills and other employment and training related activities.

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