

Pacific Gateway

Date:	March 4, 2019
To:	Workforce Development Board
From:	Dr. Kim Armstrong, Chair
Subject:	WIOA YOUTH PROGRAM INVESTMENTS (APR. 1, 2019 – SEPT. 30, 2019)

BACKGROUND

Pacific Gateway administers Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth funds to support workforce programs that help disconnected youth (ages 14-24) access training, job preparedness, and employment. WIOA categorizes youth as in-school or out-of-school; out-of-school youth are those that have not completed high school, or are otherwise not enrolled in school and unemployed. Recent federal waivers and State directives have provided additional clarification of these categories, though the overall emphasis continues to be the service of young people who are not connected to a meaningful employment or educational pipeline.

WIOA, enacted in 2015, provided workforce boards with new flexibility and direction in the administration of WIOA youth funds. Among these changes were: a mandate to dedicate 75% of funds toward out-of-school youth; a dedication of 20% of funds toward work experience (WEX), the ability to provide services directly as well as contract to community-facing organizations, and new contract models, such as pay-for-performance.

In August 2018, The Board approved a new, novel model of youth workforce development aimed at the following outcomes: greater connection and engagement with program activities, yielding higher completion rates; greater connection to professionals and their networks to help propel the youth forward in their career development; greater points of contact with youth, as measured by a better ratio of youth-to-mentor; streamlined processes that yield greater efficiencies in the system; and greater customer choice, as experienced through diversity in service plans and outcomes.

Board approval provided staff with direction and support to establish this model. Since that time, Pacific Gateway staff have presented the model to internal and external stakeholders to realize its full promise. The staff continue to resolve outstanding questions regarding liability and procurement structure, as a key aim of the program is to create more rapid on-ramps for a diversity of career mentors new to onerous City contracting processes.

In addition, staff have been working closely with local alternative/charter school organizations to provide WIOA services to those young people in their networks who qualify as Out-of-School youth.

DISCUSSION

A regular Pacific Gateway Workforce Development Board was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019. Due to a lack of quorum, a special meeting was requested to bring this action item to the Board, with a recommendation for approval.

The 2017-2018 Program Year (PY) was the final of four years in which funds could be directed to qualifying service providers. City of Long Beach procurement allows for a period of two years, with the option to renew for two additional one-year periods, at the discretion of the City Manager. Additional awards over \$25,000 would require a full Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

Concurrent to the completion of the new youth model, and in order to provide additional WIOA services to youth within existing limits of City procurement, Pacific Gateway requests approval to utilize WIOA funds in awarding new WIOA Youth Service contracts of \$24,500. Eligible applicants of these funds would include those organizations with satisfactory performance in the previous two WIA/WIOA procurement periods (Program Years 2013-2018). Of those organizations that were made awards during this period, five would be eligible based on previous performance. Performance metrics would be consistent with Federal WIOA Performance Measures and target populations, largely restricted to Out-of-School and disconnected youth.

Each \$24,500 would support a 6-month program cohort of (at minimum) ten participants. This funding would support case management, supportive services (not to exceed \$205 per youth), and administrative expenses (not to exceed \$2,450). Pacific Gateway will directly support and administer vocational training scholarships, up to 200 hours of Work Experience per youth, work readiness and support, follow-up services, as well as other administrative functions.

These contracts would have a program start date of April 1, 2019 and a program end date of September 30, 2019. A total obligation of up to \$122,500.00 is needed to support these contracts.

Contingent on Board approval, a meeting to walk eligible providers through the submission process has been scheduled for March 12, 3:30PM at Pacific Gateway offices.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of \$122,500 WIOA Youth Funds to support up five contracts for WIOA Youth Services.