



county of Santa Cruz

HUMAN RESOURCES AGENCY

CECILIA ESPINOLA, ADMINISTRATOR

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March 29, 2000

Agenda: April 11, 2000

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 County of Santa Cruz
 701 Ocean Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT YOUTH SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Dear Members of the Board:

On March 7, 2000, the Human Resources Agency (HRA) provided your Board an update on local implementation of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 including changes to youth services. As you may recall, the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) funded Youth Programs, including the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (SYETP)/Hire-A-Youth and the Year-Round Youth Program which provided services to approximately 700 youth per year, have ended. Replacing these programs will be the long-term, comprehensive WIA funded Youth Workforce Development Program. Preliminary allocation estimates indicate that funding will remain static or decline under WIA. Funding amounts combined with the more comprehensive service design will necessitate a significant decrease in service levels. WIA funding is expected to provide services to approximately 200 youth per year. The purpose of this letter is to meet your Board's request for an update on the status of local Youth Services implementation under WIA and youth initiatives to address the mandated changes under WIA.

Planning is currently underway for the WIA Youth Workforce Development Services. The Request for Proposal approved by your Board on March 7, 2000, has been issued. Proposals in response to this solicitation are due April 14, 2000. Funding recommendations and permission to negotiate will come before your Board in late May, 2000. Contracts resulting from the negotiations process are expected to come before your Board in late June, 2000, in order to implement services July 1, 2000. The procured youth activities, including leadership development and mentoring, will complement the WIA services provided by the Workforce Santa Cruz County One-Stop Operator, including youth outreach and recruitment efforts as well as worksite development and placement.

HRA continues to hear from community providers about the significant impact of the mandated changes, including reduced youth service levels, and is making efforts to address the needs of the community including individual youth who will not be served through WIA. Since the March 7, 2000, update to your Board, additional CalWORKs funds have been identified to serve youth. Approximately \$430,000 in CalWORKs funding has been made available to provide work experience services to an estimated 150 youth this summer and an estimated 100 during the 2000-2001 school year. These services will be offered by CareerWorks in the Workforce Santa Cruz County Career Centers.

Additionally, public-private partnerships will be expanded to assist youth in finding work in the private sector. Workforce Santa Cruz County partners, including the Employment Development Department and private businesses such as the Seaside Company, are planning a recruitment effort appropriate for adults and youth 16 and over. The Workforce Santa Cruz County One-Stop Operator, CareerWorks, will refer youth to recruitment efforts such as this as appropriate.

On the State and Federal level, various lobbying organizations are formally addressing the changes to youth services, specifically the allocation amounts which are insufficient to provide services at levels consistent with JTPA. In addition to the U.S. Conference of Mayors resolution supporting an emergency supplemental appropriation to increase funding for WIA youth programs, the National Association of Counties (NACo) asked both the White House and House Appropriations Committee to include youth funding in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill. As you may know, the House did not include the provision for expanded youth funding and now NACo has turned its efforts to the Senate Appropriations Committee. NACo is asking members to include the \$500 million supplemental appropriation for youth in the Senate's version of the Emergency Supplemental Bill.

HRA and the Interim Workforce Investment Board continue to support efforts such as these to address the changes on the national level. In addition to the recent letters your Board submitted to Senators Boxer and Feinstein and Congressman Farr asking for reinstatement of the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program, the Interim Workforce Investment Board forwarded a letter in support of the emergency appropriation to Senator Diane Feinstein, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee (attached).


All initiatives will continue to be discussed at the Youth Task Force meetings of the Interim Workforce Investment Board. Any significant changes, including any successful effort to increase youth services funding, will be reported to your Board.

It is THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board:

- 1) Accept and file this update on Workforce Investment Act Youth Services and Initiatives; and

- 2) Accept and file the attached letter from the Workforce Investment Board Chairperson to Senator Diane Feinstein supporting Emergency Supplemental Funding for Youth Services.

Very truly yours,



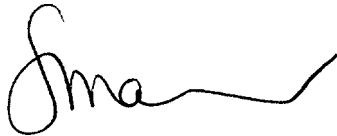
Cecilia Espinola
Administrator

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Attachment

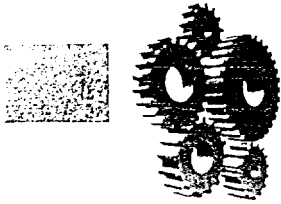
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RECOMMENDED



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc Interim Workforce Investment Board



March 22, 2000

The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
33 1 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 205 10

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Interim Workforce Investment Board, I am writing to request your support for emergency funding for youth employment under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in the FY2000 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill scheduled for review by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

As you are aware, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which was signed into law in August 1998, will become effective July 1, 2000. Because of the additional, more costly mandates of WIA to provide comprehensive, year-round service to all participants, cities and other local communities across the country will be forced to drastically reduce the number of summer employment opportunities available to young people. Even with local and private support, many youth who are in need of jobs this summer, especially those 14 and 15 years old, will be unable to find jobs.

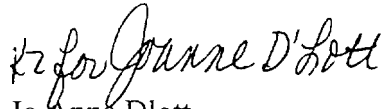
In Santa Cruz County alone, this translates to a reduction from serving over 600 youth per summer to serving approximately 200.

In addition to the more costly, year-round service, WIA also mandates a 15 percent set aside for the Governor (which was never part of the \$87.1 million Summer Youth Employment and Training Program) and a minimum of 30 percent of all funds to be spent on out-of-school youth. Most summer youth programs, including Santa Cruz County's, serve youth who are 14 and 15.

While we strongly support the WIA goal of offering more comprehensive services for youth on a year-round basis, we believe that additional funds are needed to ensure that the same number of youth who had jobs last summer will be able to get jobs this summer. Without additional funds, many young people from cities and local communities across the country will not have jobs. In Santa Cruz County, more than 400 youth who would have been served during the summer will not be.

We feel strongly that the crisis facing local youth constitutes a real and immediate emergency. As the Senate Appropriations Committee begins to examine the Emergency Supplemental bill, we urge you to ask the Committee members to include \$500 million for youth employment this summer under the Workforce Investment Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "for Jo Anne Dlott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jo Anne Dlott
Chairperson