



COUNTY *of* VENTURA

MELISSA LIVINGSTON
Director

September 24, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

855 Partridge Drive
Ventura, CA 93003
805-477-5100

JENNIE PITTMAN
Deputy Director
Administrative Services

ELAINE MARTINEZ
Deputy Director
Aging & Disability Services

LETICIA MORALES
Interim Deputy Director
Children & Family Services

MARISSA MACH
Deputy Director
Community Access & Engagement

JAIMÉ DUNCAN
Interim Deputy Director
Community Services

Subject: Approval of, and Authorization for the Human Services Agency Director or Purchasing Agent to Sign, a Contract with Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc., dba Eckerd Connects, Effective October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2026, in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$1,367,693 for the Ventura County Public Service Fellowship Program; and Authorization for the Human Services Agency Director or Purchasing Agent to Approve and Sign Limited Contract Modifications Upon Certain Conditions.

Recommendations:

1. Approve, and authorize the Human Services Agency (HSA) Director or Purchasing Agent to sign, a contract with Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc., dba Eckerd Connects, effective October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2026, in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,367,693 for the Ventura County Public Service Fellowship Program (Exhibit 1) to provide training, skill development and paid work experience to 111 young adults ages 18-28.
2. Authorize the HSA Director, Purchasing Agent, or designees, to approve and sign limited contract modifications to (a) increase the amount of the contract up to 10%, (b) decrease the amount of the contract by any amount, or cancel the contract due to funding limitations or other circumstances allowable per contract terms, (c) extend the time of performance up to six months, or to the length that matches the grantor's extension, and (d) make budget modifications, corrections, clarifications and technical changes, when the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the contract, subject to County Executive Office and County Counsel review and approval.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	Federal WIOA Grant
Funding Match Required:	No
Impact on other Departments:	None

Summary of Revenue and Costs:

	<u>FY 2024-25</u>	<u>FY 2025-26</u>
Revenue:		
Direct	\$680,000	\$687,693
Total Revenue	\$680,000	\$687,693
Costs:		
Direct	\$680,000	\$687,693
Indirect	Minimal	Minimal
Total Costs	\$680,000	\$687,693
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0

There is no Net County Cost associated with this action. The program is funded through a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant. There are sufficient revenues and appropriations in the HSA Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25.

FY 2024-25 Budget Projections for HSA Workforce Development – Div. 3450				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$10,067,751	\$16,380,997	\$16,380,997	\$0
Revenue	\$10,067,751	\$10,067,751	\$10,067,751	\$0
Net Cost	\$0	\$6,313,246	\$6,313,246	\$0

Strategic Plan Priority:

The Ventura County Public Service Fellowship Program contributes to the Board of Supervisors' 2024-2027 Strategic Plan priority of 'Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Vitality', Goal (1) Foster a thriving business ecosystem to create jobs, increase wages, and strengthen the local economy.

Discussion:

California has thousands of resilient young people who, despite their potential, have faced considerable challenges that have left them disconnected from school or work. Young adults, who are neither in school nor working tend to be significantly disadvantaged relative to their connected counterparts. Many are young parents, justice-involved, unhoused, or working in low-wage jobs, often without any opportunity for career advancement. They face unique systemic barriers and pandemic-related struggles that have made their journey to sustainable employment arduous and challenging.

Before your Board today is a proposed contract with Eckerd Connects, a nonprofit corporation, to administer the Ventura County Public Service Fellowship Program. The program will provide training, skill development, and work experience to improve employment options and reduce persistent economic inequities for disconnected young adults 18-28 years of age. The program will emphasize public sector career pathways by providing 111 young adults with up to 290 hours of subsidized work experience at various

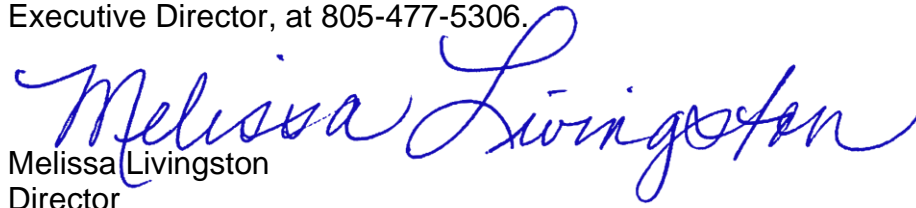
County of Ventura Agency sites (such as the Health Care Agency, Child Support Services, and Library) where they will receive hands-on, practical training in the public sector. In addition to these work experiences, participants will receive career counseling guidance to assist in identifying career goals and developing career plans, as well as Six Sigma Yellow Belt Training which teaches strategies and tools necessary for problem solving and process improvement. Through comprehensive, coordinated training, tailored support services, and trauma-informed case management, these young adults will be provided opportunities to build their technical and soft skills and obtain good-quality jobs that pay family-sustaining wages, offer benefits, have predictable hours, include opportunities for career advancement, and encourage the worker voice. Eckerd Connects will serve as the employer of record, and among its duties will be enrolling and selecting participants, maintaining required documentation, and coordinating with County agencies to place participants.

The Workforce Development Board (WDB) applied for and received a grant from the California Employment Development Department, making this opportunity possible.

CEO-Labor Relations representatives met with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 721 representatives regarding the project on August 27, 2024, and SEIU concurred with the establishment of the 18-month program, with the understanding that if the program is extended or if there is an opportunity to bring the participants on board as County employees the County and SEIU will meet again for discussions.

We ask your Board to approve, and authorize the HSA Director or Purchasing Agent to sign, the contract with Eckerd Connects for the Ventura County Public Service Fellowship Program, and authorize the HSA Director or Purchasing Agent to modify the contract within the parameters described in recommendation two.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, the County Purchasing Agent, the Human Resources Division and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact me at 805-477-5301, or Rebecca Evans, WDB Executive Director, at 805-477-5306.



Melissa Livingston
Director

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – Eckerd Connects, Ventura County Public Service Fellowship Program Contract