



COUNTY of VENTURA

MELISSA LIVINGSTON
Director

HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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

July 23, 2024

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

JENNIE PITTMAN

Deputy Director
Administrative Services

VICTORIA JUMP

Deputy Director
Aging & Disability Services

Subject: Ratification of the Submission of an Application to the James Irvine Foundation for a Public Workforce Capacity Fund Grant in the Amount of \$500,000; Authorization for the Human Services Agency to Submit an Application to the Environmental Protection Agency for a Brownfields Job Training Grant in the Amount of \$500,000; and Authorization for the Human Services Agency Director to Accept Funding and Sign Any Related Grant Agreements.

DAVID SWANSON HOLLINGER

Deputy Director
Children & Family Services

MARISSA MACH

Deputy Director
Community Access & Engagement

ELAINE MARTINEZ

Deputy Director
Community Services

Recommendations:

1. Ratify the submission of an application for funding to the James Irvine Foundation (JIF) for a Public Workforce Capacity Fund (PWCF) Grant in the amount of \$500,000 to expand the training, ability and proficiency of Workforce Development Board of Ventura County (WDBVC) staff in providing high-quality and meaningful services to job seekers and area businesses (Exhibit 1).
2. Authorize the Human Services Agency (HSA) to submit an application for funding to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Brownfields Job Training Grant (Brownfields) in the amount of \$500,000 to provide 100 unemployed or under-employed individuals with training and job placement in the environmental field.
3. Authorize the HSA Director, or designee, to accept funding and sign any related grant agreements, upon the review and approval of the County Executive Office and County Counsel.

Reason for Ratification:

JIF announced its request for applications for a PWCF Grant on June 3, 2024, with applications due to JIF on July 1, 2024. Due to the short timeframe to prepare the application documents, HSA and the WDBVC were unable to come to your Board for approval prior to submission of the application. The County Executive Office was notified of the funding opportunity and provided with all final application documents prior to submission. We are

before your Board today at the earliest date for ratification of the submission of the application as required by the County grants policy.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory: No
Source of Funding: Private Foundation, Federal
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	\$155,000	\$350,000
Total Revenue	\$155,000	\$350,000
Costs:		
Direct	\$155,000	\$350,000
Indirect	Minimal	Minimal
Total Costs	\$155,000	\$350,000
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0

There are no Net County Costs associated with this action. Sufficient revenues and appropriations are included in HSA's Adopted Budget for FY 2024-25. The project period is anticipated to be five years for JIF and two years for Brownfields. If awarded funding, in addition to the details shown above, it is estimated that \$495,000 in revenue and appropriations will be realized in FY 2026-27 through FY 2029-2030.

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

Strategic Plan Priority:

The PWCF Capacity Grant contributes to the Board of Supervisors' 2024-2027 Strategic Plan priority of 'Diverse and Innovative Workforce Dedicated to Service Excellence', Goal (2) Leverage innovation and continuous improvement to provide efficient and effective services. The Brownfields Job Training Program contributes to the Board of Supervisors' 2024-2027 Strategic Plan priority of 'Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Vitality', Goal (2) Foster a thriving business ecosystem to create jobs, increase wages, and strengthen the local economy.

Discussion:

Public Workforce Capacity Fund Grant

JIF's PWCF Grant aims to support local workforce development boards in advancing racial equity, providing holistic support, and promoting access to quality jobs. In addition, the funding opportunity makes progress towards JIF's North Star of all low-income workers in California having the power to advance economically. The funding opportunity is open exclusively to local public workforce development boards in California.

The WDBVC's Capacity Building project will (1) Advance racial equity by addressing internal barriers to engaging and serving communities of color by creating and providing training to workforce development staff that is focused on identifying implicit biases, understanding systemic inequalities, and developing cultural competencies; (2) Serve low-income workers and their families holistically by creating a more welcoming, culturally inclusive physical environment and customer experience in WDB and WDB-funded job centers, and engage customers and incorporate their feedback into program design and continuous improvement to have more job seekers participate in WDBVC programs; (3) Promote the creation of, and access to, quality jobs within the workforce development field and in the communities WDB serves by deepening knowledge of roles the WDBVC can play in supporting registered apprenticeships and developing pipelines of quality jobs; and (4) Convene a Workforce Summit to share knowledge and best practices through workshops and discussions that equip stakeholders with the tools to develop and expand successful earn-and-learn programs that lead to quality jobs. The WDBVC will secure the expertise of a State of the Workforce Consultant, a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Consultant, and an Apprenticeship Consultant to further research on the state of the workforce in Ventura County, and to develop and deliver training that helps staff provide more meaningful assistance to job seekers and area businesses.

Brownfields Job Training

The objective of the EPA's Brownfields Job Training Program is to recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents of solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities with the skills needed to obtain full-time, sustainable employment. The program promotes the facilitation of activities related to assessment, cleanup, or preparation of contaminated sites, including brownfields, for reuse, while simultaneously building a local workforce with the skills needed to perform remediation work that is supportive of environmental protection and environmental health and safety. A critical part of the EPA's program is to further environmental justice by ensuring that all residents living in communities affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and disproportionate or adverse exposures to environmental contamination, have an opportunity to reap the benefits of revitalization and environmental cleanup.

WDBVC's Brownfields Job Training Program will target 100 high-need individuals aged 18 and above who will benefit from the program, such as those who are: unemployed or severely underemployed, dislocated workers, formerly incarcerated persons, veterans, individuals with little to no advanced education past high school level, single custodial parents, and residents of communities disproportionately impacted by environmental or human health harms or risks (including disproportionately impacted low income, minority, Tribal and indigenous communities). The program will provide program graduates with the

Board of Supervisors

July 23, 2024

Page 4

skills and credentials needed for pathways into full-time employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field, as well as opportunities to seek and obtain environmental jobs that contractors may otherwise fill from outside the community. Further details of the program are still in development.

We ask your Board to ratify the submission of the application to JIF for the Public Workforce Capacity Fund Grant and authorize HSA to submit an application to the EPA for a Brownfields Job Training Grant. We also ask your Board to authorize the HSA Director to accept funding and sign any related grant agreements, upon the review and approval of the County Executive Office and County Counsel.

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



Melissa Livingston
Director

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – James Irvine Foundation Grant Application