



# COUNTY OF VENTURA HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Barry L. Zimmerman  
Director

March 12, 2019

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

**Subject:**     **Ratification of the Submission of a Grant Application on Behalf of the Workforce Development Board of Ventura County for Prison to Employment Initiative Direct and Supportive Services Grants.**

Melissa Livingston  
Chief Deputy Director

Jennie Pittman  
Deputy Director  
Administrative Services

Marissa Mach  
Deputy Director  
Adult & Family Services

Judy Webber  
Deputy Director  
Children & Family Services

Curtis Updike  
Deputy Director  
Community Services  
Department

**Recommendation:**

Ratify the submission of a grant application on behalf of the Workforce Development Board of Ventura County (WDB) to the California Workforce Development Board for a Prison to Employment (Prison to Employment) Implementation Direct Services Grant and Supportive Services Earn and Learn Grant.

**Reason for Ratification:**

The application for the Prison to Employment grants was due on February 15, 2019. Due to the short time frame to coordinate and prepare the final application, the Human Services Agency was unable to come to your Board for approval prior to submittal. We notified the County Executive Office and received approval to submit the application on February 15, 2019. Therefore, we are returning to your Board at the earliest possible date for ratification of the submission for the application as required pursuant to the County grants policy.

**Fiscal/Mandates Impact:**

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	California Workforce Development Board/State General Fund
Funding Match Required:	No
Impact on other Departments:	None

There is no matching funds requirement for the Prison to Employment grants. We will return for your Board's authorization to accept grant funding when award amounts are determined, and will provide detailed fiscal impacts and request appropriations at that time.

**Discussion:**

**A. Background**

The State of California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) has entered into a formal partnership with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the California Prison Industry Authority, and the California Workforce Association with the goal of improving labor market outcomes for the state's formerly incarcerated and justice-involved population. The state will make \$34,000,000 in general funds available statewide to serve these individuals through grants awarded to the 14 Regional Planning Units (RPU), with up to \$14,000,000 released in Fiscal Year 2018-19, and up to \$20,000,000 released in Fiscal Year 2019-20. In Ventura County, the WDB serves as the sole Local Board for the Ventura County RPU, whereas larger metropolitan areas may have multiple Local Boards per RPU. Therefore, the WDB will be the sole grantee in the Ventura County Region.

On September 17, 2018, the WDB received \$47,500 for the Prison to Employment Regional Planning Grant. With these funds, the WDB hired a consultant that is currently working with community-based organizations (CBOs), business, labor, and other sectors on regional plans to serve our local reentry population. The WDB has also held Prison to Employment initiative meetings to gather community support and develop relationships with the required entities to inform the regional plan and implement the Prison to Employment initiative successfully. This grant proposal is based on the recommendations and priorities gleaned from stakeholders in recent months during the strategic planning process.

**B. Prison to Employment Initiative Direct and Supportive Services Grants**

Recently, CWDB announced funding to implement the Prison to Employment initiative, which both funds regional plan implementation and provides resources for direct services designed to help formerly incarcerated and other justice-involved individuals secure employment.

It is anticipated that all RPUs will receive funds through this grant opportunity, with the WDB being the grantee for the Ventura County RPU. Funding will be awarded in two cycles - first in April 2019 and again in July 2019. Award amounts will be determined through an evaluation process conducted by CWDB based on several factors, including the strength of the application and regional factors, such as the need for workforce services for formerly incarcerated and justice-involved individuals, the size of post-release population and the recidivism rate.

The following is a summary of the program as submitted as part of the application process:

Funding Agency: California Workforce Development Board

Applicant: Workforce Development Board of Ventura County

Project Title: Prison to Employment Initiative Direct and Supportive Services Grants

Target Population: Justice-involved and formerly incarcerated individuals for provided services, and other key community and government organizations that serve this population for planning and coordination of services.

Amount Requested: \$3,988,495

Project Term: Estimated April 2019 through March 2022

Project Description: Through a number of community stakeholder meetings, the WDB has identified strategies to implement the Prison to Employment initiative in Ventura County. Through this funding and multiple relationships with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, Human Services Agency-Adult and Family Services, Probation Agency, Community Corrections Partnership, the Reentry Council, and others, it is anticipated that the project will provide assessment, engagement and referral for 300 justice-involved participants, with many receiving additional supportive services such as assistance with transportation, sober living and success toolkits. Seventy-five (75) justice-involved individuals will receive employment training, occupational skills, and other career pathway connections through the grant over the next three years. Forty-five (45) of those will also participate in grant-funded Earn and Learn Strategies, such as on-the-job training. In addition to County-provided services, contracts will be let to CBOs through a bid process to help facilitate direct service provision. Staff will also be assigned to coordinate employer outreach and develop relationships with workplaces for employment placement, with a plan to educate and encourage 300 potential employers to hire formerly incarcerated and justice-involved individuals.

We recommend your Board ratify the Human Services Agency's submission on behalf of the WDB of the grant application attached as Exhibit 1.

This request is consistent with County Strategic Plan Focus Area #4: Community Well-Being, Strategic Goal #4: Ensure that individuals and families are provided timely and efficient assistance to meet/sustain basic needs, and transition quickly into pathways of productivity and self-sufficiency.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Livingston, Chief Deputy Director at 1-805-477-5303 or Rebecca Evans, WDB Executive Director, at 1-805-477-5306.

  
BARRY L. ZIMMERMAN  
Director

Exhibit 1-Prison to Employment Grant Application