

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**ACTION ITEM: 1.3**

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** February 19, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Funding Recommendation for a Direct Contract with College of the Desert to provide Vocational Training to Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Dislocated Workers and Veterans.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** Riverside County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Executive Committee approves WIA funding for College of the Desert (COD) to provide vocational training to dislocated workers and veterans during the period of June 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

**BACKGROUND:** The Eastern portion of Riverside County is recognized as an apex for renewable energy generation with sources from solar, wind, geothermal and biomass. Since 2010, with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds and subsequent state grant funds, the WDC has collaborated with COD and industry partners in the training of WIA participants in Utility Scale Solar training. The training provides the requirements for individuals to sit for the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) exam. This program received a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) merit award for being cost effective and successfully placing graduates in training-related jobs. The O'NET On-Line data base for occupation specific information lists the median wage for a photovoltaic installer at \$18.22 per hour.

The Home Energy Rating System (HERS) is driven by California's Title 24 Energy Efficiency Building Codes. The Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) sponsored Energy Opportunities Collaboration has identified HERS raters as being an under-represented occupation by local utilities. The advent of the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program through CVAG will require an energy audit by certified personnel such as HERS. O'NET lists the median wage for energy auditors at \$31.31 per hour.

Employment for security guards is expected to grow driven by demand and the need to replace an aging workforce. Concern about crime, vandalism and terrorism continues to drive employment in this field. Opportunities for security at public events, resorts, residential neighborhoods and gaming will only grow in the Coachella Valley. The Guard Card with Firearms is the highest level of security and consequently the highest paid position. The cohort training will likely serve a significant number of our veteran population. Military experience is consistently listed as a desired qualification for an armed security guard. ONET lists armed guards under specific categories i.e. power plant, private security officers, and correctional officers. The median range is \$14.00 to \$18.00 per hour.

The recommendation is to establish a direct contract with COD to provide vocational training in cohorts for: Utility Scale Solar training with NABCEP Entry Level Exam preparation and administration, Certified HERS training and Guard Card training through Firearms. The recommended amount is for \$113,200 and will specifically target Dislocated Workers and Veterans. The contract will provide 3 cohorts of training.

<b>PROPOSED CONTRACT TRAINING FOR APPROVED COHORTS</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>Fixed Rate Per Cohort</b>
Utility Scale Solar Training Program with NABCEP Entry- Level Exam preparation and administration.	Min 15 Max 20	\$47,300
Home Energy Rating System Training Program with Certification for raters, quality assurance procedures and data collecting and reporting, as well as, field verification component.	Min 10 Max 15	\$36,900
Guard Card through Firearms. Includes LiveScan with firearms fee, FBI background check fee, new or renewal Guard Card Fee	Min 8 Max 10	\$29,000
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED</b>		<b>\$113,200</b>

The federal Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014, Division H, page 344 contains language allowing local boards to contract directly with institutions of higher education or eligible training providers for PY 2013/14. The State of California is in the process of revising their Directive [WSD12-20](#) to extend this flexibility through PY 2014-15.

<i>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</i>  Date: February 19, 2014 Approval: Yes	<i>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONCURRENCE</i>  Required: Yes/No
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