

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



ACTION ITEM #0.0

SUBMITTAL DATE: February 20, 2008

SUBJECT: Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program Year 2008-2009 Funding

RECOMMENDATION: That the Riverside County Council for Youth Development (CYD) Operations Committee recommends for approval to the Riverside County Workforce Development Board (WDB) Executive Committee the Program Year (PY) 2008-2009 Youth Opportunity Center funding recommendations within 10% of the recommended amounts (attached).

BACKGROUND: The Riverside County WIA Youth System is designed to provide long-term comprehensive services which support the education and employment success of all youth. Operated by community partnerships, the Youth Opportunity Centers of Riverside County serve as “one-stop” centers where youth can receive the services they need in the areas of academics and workforce preparation.

In February 2007, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was released to solicit Lead Agencies to operate existing Youth Opportunity Centers. The procurement covers a period of three years, effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010. Partnership contracts are awarded to Lead Agencies on an annual basis with continued funding being based on the partnership providing satisfactory service delivery, meeting quality standards, achieving program performance goals and availability of WIA youth funding.

WIA allocations have been decreasing steadily over the past seven years. Therefore, in determining appropriate funding allocations, staff not only had to consider the evaluation score of the proposals, but also the needs of the communities throughout Riverside County. The recommended funding serves those communities with the greatest need and the least amount of resources. Due to limited funds, and a stipulation in the Executive Committee minutes on May 16, 2007, five Youth Opportunity Centers are recommended for funding. (Stipulation: The Riverside YOC was informed two years ago that due to reduced Youth funds, it would need to seek/secure additional funding from the City of Riverside. If this does not occur, the Riverside YOC will be phased out.)

The Riverside YOC was not able to secure additional funds and will be phased out by June 30, 2008. Their current allocation amount of \$250,000 will be redistributed amongst the remaining five Youth Opportunity Centers for the new program year. The YOC's will use these funds to enhance program services to meet the new State required 'Common Measures' performance effective July 1, 2008. Each YOC will submit a Scope of Work to address how they will incorporate nationally recognized certification programs and utilize training activities, such as work experience, internships, and vocational education to increase placement in employment and attainment of a degree/certificate.