



ACTION ITEM # 1.5

SUBMITTAL DATE: December 16, 2009

SUBJECT: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Program Year 2009/10 Rapid Response Funding Recommendations for the Development of a local Business Visitation Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Riverside County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Executive Committee approve the Program Years (PY) 2009-2011 Business Visitation Program funding recommendations with the option to negotiate the final agreements within 10 percent of those amounts.

BACKGROUND: ARRA Rapid Response Funding may be used, in part, for the development of layoff aversion strategies. As part of a multiple approach to this goal, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was released November 6, 2009 through November 30, 2009 to solicit qualified cities and regional Economic Development Organizations (EDO) interested in implementing a Business Visitation Program. Four responses were received and evaluated. Three of the responses scored within the minimum 80% required for funding.

The cities of Murrieta, Palm Springs and Riverside submitted proposals that scored at, or above the minimum required. The proposal received from the Economic Development Council of Southwest California scored below the minimum.

The three recommended cities propose to implement business visitation surveys to measure employer-staffing needs, identify businesses at risk of downsizing and/or relocation, and identify opportunities for job and business retention. The results from the activities proposed by the cities will be shared with local chambers of commerce, community colleges and other stakeholders and will further our job/business retention strategies.

Due to the low response rate to this RFQ, another release is planned for January to broaden geographic coverage and insure projects are implemented in all areas of the county. Additional recommendations will be presented to the WIB at that time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

CITY	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED
Murrieta	\$22,700	\$22,700
Palm Springs	\$25,000	\$25,000
Riverside	\$80,000	\$80,000

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Date: December 16, 2009 Approval: Yes/No	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONCURRENCE Required: Yes/No
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