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TO: Charles Woo, Chair  
Workforce Investment Board

FROM: Robert Sainz, Assistant General Manager  
CDD, Workforce & Economic Development Division

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Labor announced the availability of \$1.2 billion in youth funding under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The City of Los Angeles Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA) anticipates receiving approximately \$40 to \$42 million in WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs. The Youth ARRA appropriation for the City of Los Angeles is estimated at \$19.5 million for local youth activities, including summer employment. Below are some of the highlights of the ARRA as stated in the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Training and Employment Guidance Letter number 14-08 (released March 18, 2009).

- Workforce systems must be guided by four principles:
  - Transparency and accountability in the use of ARRA funding;
  - Timely spending of the funds and implementation of activities;
  - Increasing workforce system capacity and service levels; and
  - Using data and workforce information to guide strategic planning and service delivery.
- Summer youth work programs should include youth who are disconnected from education and workforce.
- Emphasize "green jobs," renewable energy, infrastructure, energy efficiency, home retrofitting, biofuel development, advanced drive/train vehicle development and manufacturing.
- Workforce should make connections to other Federal ARRA investments to complement programs and services.
- The Youth dollars appropriated through ARRA are WIA funds that can be used for formula, year round and summer youth employment activities.
- These Youth funds must be spent within 18 months: however, the expectation is that most (if not all) dollars be spent immediately.
- These Youth dollars are now targeted to expand the age eligibility from 14 to 21 years old to 14 to 24 years old and require a Work Readiness Skill Attainment performance measure.



- Youth enrolled under the ARRA must meet regular WIA eligibility requirements.
- Youth programs are expected to be operational within 60 days of ARRA approval.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

In order to meet ARRA requirements for expedited and effective use of funds, the City has outlined a strategy to immediately implement ARRA youth programs and a three-step approach to allocate youth funds in the new program year beginning July 1, 2009.

#### **Immediate allocation of Youth ARRA funds PY 2008-2009:**

- Allocate \$2.5 million immediately to current OneSource Youth Opportunity Center System. Through the 08-09 Annual Plan, CDD has the authority to add up to \$250k to existing contracts via contract amendment. Funds can be used to complement current WIA activities and provide first time paid work experience to 1,250 youth. Activities and expenditures will occur between May 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009. Any unspent funds will be recaptured and reallocated to programs in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

#### **Youth Implementation Plan PY 2009-2010**

- Through the 09-10 Annual Plan, outline three-step approach (see below) to implement and fully expend the remaining \$17 million dollars within 18 months of receipt.
  - **STEP ONE:** allocate \$8 million dollars to Summer Youth Employment activities to serve 4,000 youth ages 14 – 24 through the OneSource SYEP system. Only those contractors secured under the competitive procurement process will be eligible to receive funds. All programs will include a work readiness skill attainment, introduction to the green job economy, conservation and financial literacy. Programs will include but are not limited to:
    - Learn & Earn - CAHSEE Prep and Green Technology
    - Clean & Green
    - We Build Math Academy
    - Stand & Deliver Health Careers Academy
    - Summer Nights
    - LA School Partnership
    - LA Scholars
    - Hire LA News Team
    - Weed & Seed
    - LA Arts Corp (working title)
    - Fresh Start Probation Summer Jobs
    - Foster Youth Summer Jobs Plus Program
  - **STEP TWO:** allocate \$5 million to the regular WIA formula grant to augment the current OneSource System activities. These additional funds will be held to the WIA Common Measures performance metrics plus the Work Readiness Skill Attainment. Additional dollars will be awarded to OneSource centers based on successful SOFA performance and capacity.
  - **STEP THREE:** allocate \$2 million to initiate a young adult 21-24 year old Sector Based Internship Academy. The program will serve 1,000 young adults with paid work experience in high growth sectors to include Healthcare and Green Technologies. Current CDD Workforce



Development System contractors will provide program implementation in partnership with Faith Based Organizations utilizing a work and learn program model.

Allocate no more than 10%, or (\$1.95 mil) of ARRA funds to CDD for program monitoring and oversight.

**IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE AND REQUIRED ACTIONS:**

U.S. Senate to Pass America Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009	2/19/09
\$2.5 million CDD to amend current OneSource contracts	4/15/09
\$2 million Internal CDD/WDD RFQ released for Sector Based Internship Academy	4/2009
Youth ARRA dollars implemented citywide	4/20/09
Mayor & City Council approve CDD/WDD Year 10 Annual Plan	6/2009
\$8 million Summer Youth Employment Program Kick-off	7/2009
\$2 million Sector Based Internship Academy Kick-Off	7/2009
\$5 million is added to OneSource System allocation	7/2009

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**

- Additional dollars applied to the WIA formula activities will be held to the Common Measures and Work Readiness Skill Attainment.
- Summer Youth Employment activity metrics include:
  - Work Readiness Skill Attainment as prescribed by DOL;
  - Remain in school/grade matriculation for in-school youth;
  - Return to school for minors who entered program as out-of-school;
  - Increased knowledge of Green Technologies and Financial Literacy;
  - Connection to Hire LA Youth campaign and/or WDD Workforce Development System.

