

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

682



FROM: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

SUBMITTAL DATE:
July 21, 2009

SUBJECT: CALWORKS SUBSIDIZED TIME-LIMITED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board of Supervisors authorize DPSS, in collaboration with County Human Resources, to use funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to maximize the placement of CalWORKs clients in a newly created Subsidized Time-Limited Employment Program (STEP).

BACKGROUND:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) is the federal economic stimulus package signed into law on February 17, 2009. Among the provisions included in the Act is the creation of an emergency contingency fund for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program.

This emergency contingency fund was created in recognition of the significant increase in the number of families currently receiving assistance and the limited employment opportunities available. These funds may be used to provide ongoing basic assistance (cash grants), non-recurring short-term assistance, and subsidized employment.

Susan Loew

Susan Loew, Director

(CONTINUED – 2 pages in total)

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	09/10

SOURCE OF FUNDS: No fiscal impact.	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY:

Michael R. Shetler
Michael R. Shetler

County Executive Office Signature

- Policy
- Consent
- Policy
- Consent
- Dept't Recomm.:
- Per Exec. Ofc.:

3000 07 12 0111:13

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: All

Agenda Number:

3.66

Ronald W. Romers, Asst. County Officer/Human Resources Director
 Robert Field, Asst. County Executive Officer/EOA
 Departmental Concurrence
 Larisa R-McKenna, County Counsel
Robert Field

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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SUBJECT: CALWORKS SUBSIDIZED TIME-LIMITED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND:

The State will be responsible for determining any use for ongoing basic assistance and has indicated that counties may proceed with implementing programs related to non-recurring short-term assistance and subsidized employment. Use of these funds requires a 20% match; however, there are many options for fulfilling the matching requirement, none of which require county general fund support.

At this time, DPSS is recommending that a subsidized employment program be implemented for three reasons – our CalWORKs customers will learn valuable job skills, which will assist them with securing permanent employment; subsidized employment will help create local jobs to stimulate the local economy; and, adding this activity to our welfare-to-work programs will further our efforts to meet federal work participation requirements.

DPSS, in collaboration with County Human Resources, has been developing the Subsidized Time-Limited Employment Program (STEP) using the framework of our Volunteer Services and Work Experience (WEX) programs that are currently available to our CalWORKs customers. The Volunteer Services and WEX programs are designed to provide on-the-job experience and skills enhancement to participants. STEP will function similarly, with the primary difference being that the participants will be compensated for their work. Based on eligibility rules, the CalWORKs grants are likely to be adjusted based on the additional income the customers will receive through their participation in this program.

County Human Resources, using the Temporary Assignment Program (TAP), will screen and assess participants for placement with various employers. Initially, the program will be piloted within DPSS and then expanded to other county departments, other public agencies, and finally to include non-profit and for-profit businesses in the community. Typically, participants will have a six-month assignment.

It is important to note that these assignments cannot displace a current job or replace a job that has been vacated as a result of a layoff. DPSS is working closely with HR to ensure that all assignments meet this requirement.

Our current goal for STEP is to provide employment to upwards of 500 customers, with the desired outcome of providing our customers with job training and skills needed to secure permanent employment. If employer interest grows and funding is available, we will assess our capacity to expand the program further. Funding for this program is only available through September 2010. We are ramping up quickly with the hope of maximizing our participation within this 14-month period.

FINANCIAL DATA: DPSS has applied for \$17,000,000 of the ARRA funding; however, funding awards have not been announced to date.