

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



ITEM: 3.4
(ID # 13136)

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, August 04, 2020

FROM: BOS DISTRICT 3 AND SUPERVISOR JEFF HEWITT:

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR CHUCK WASHINGTON AND SUPERVISOR JEFF HEWITT:
LAUNCH OF THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY YOUTH COMMUNITY CORPS TO
SUPPORT COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC – ALL
DISTRICTS – \$2 MILLION FEDERAL FUNDING.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Establish the Riverside County Youth Community Corps to provide youth ages 16-24 with an opportunity to participate in a local service program which supports the community response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
2. Provide each youth participant with a paid stipend, training, mentorship and wrap-around supports during their term of service;
3. Partner with community-based organizations and municipalities to identify service sites that provide opportunities for youth and address critical community needs;
4. Leverage the Youth Opportunity Center (YOC) system and the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) to launch the Corps;
5. Authorize the Director of Housing, Homeless Prevention and Workforce Solutions (HHPWS), or designee, to execute any and all necessary agreements and documents to implement and administer the Riverside County Community Corps Program; and
6. Direct HHPWS to conduct a large-scale marketing and outreach effort to ensure that youth from all cities and those residing in unincorporated areas of the county can effectively access the program.

ACTION: Policy

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Washington, seconded by Supervisor Hewitt and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: August 4, 2020
xc: Supvr. Washington, Supvr. Hewitt, HHPWS
YOC and YAC

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy

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

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: Federal Funding			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: 20/21	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: [CEO use]

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically altered everyday life. Economically, unemployment rates soared to historic levels virtually overnight. Youth employment was particularly hard-hit, with the nationwide youth unemployment rate reaching a staggering 30%. Many residents experienced devastating financial losses as a result of furloughs and layoffs. Lower income residents and those with little to no financial cushion were affected most immediately, relying heavily on social service providers and nonprofits to provide necessities such as food. Moreover, stay-at-home orders caused many youth to lose access to school, after-school programs, sports, and other structures that traditionally facilitated social support and constructive activity.

The Youth Community Corps proposes to address these COVID impacts - both economic and social. Employing youth will not only provide tremendous vocational benefit for participants, but it will also act as a social support during a time when traditional support mechanisms are unavailable. The project further proposes to assist nonprofit and municipal service providers that are struggling with sharp increases in demand for services while simultaneously losing their volunteer base due to stay-at-home orders.

The Riverside County Youth Community Corps will provide youth (ages 16-24) countywide with a paid internship at a local nonprofit or municipality. Participating youth will receive a \$2,150 stipend for a 6-week internship or a \$4,550 stipend for a 12-week internship. The Corps is expected to serve 100 youth per Supervisorial District for a total of 500 youth.

Youth participants will benefit in three key areas. First, the Corps will address youth unemployment by providing work experience, work-related training, mentoring and leadership development. In addition to receiving immediate economic support through earning a monetary stipend, participants will acquire resume-building skills and make crucial network connections. The project will also incorporate "service learning" so that participants combine job experience and qualities like empathy, critical thinking and life skills that they can take with them to future jobs. Taken together, experiences acquired from the Corps will increase participants' workability skills, improving the long-term employability of the County's youth. Second, the Corps will provide an outlet for youth civic engagement. Participants will be tangibly contributing to a community response to COVID-19. Activities undertaken as part of the project will reinforce civic values of working together to overcome economic adversity and protecting the most vulnerable. Finally, the Corps will act as a mechanism for social support and channel for constructive activity during a time when traditional methods are lacking. The closure of schools, sports programs and other traditional structures have left many youth with few alternatives.

An important component of the project is the support provided to local nonprofits and municipal departments. Specifically, the Youth Community Corps will bring additional support for food pantries, school lunch programs and efforts of municipal public health and social service

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

departments, while assisting community-based organizations that are supplying vital resources and services during the pandemic. Indirect beneficiaries include those most vulnerable to and affected by COVID 19, such as senior citizens, individuals experiencing homelessness and families with children. In sum, the Corps will bolster organizations and agencies on the front lines of the COVID-19 response through additional workforce support and the opportunity to engage youth in their local projects.

In an effort to leverage existing resources, the Youth Community Corps will be integrated into the County's existing youth initiatives, which include the Youth Opportunity Centers and the Youth Advisory Council. California Family Life Center and ResCare Services — who currently operate the County's six Youth Opportunity Centers — will serve as the contracted service providers and lead agencies for the project. The budget table below details the proposed line item budget.

Activity	Amount
Stipend - \$2,150 for 6 weeks (375 youth - all income levels)	\$ 806,250
Stipend - \$4,550 for 12 weeks (125 youth - YOC enrolled, disconnected)	\$ 568,750
Community Corps Site Supervisor (3 at each YOC = 18 @ \$18.00 per hour/ plus benefits @ 21.8 weeks)	\$ 319, 396
Transportation (lease van @ each YOC, fuel, mileage)	\$87,106
Supplies	\$60,000
Insurance (Vehicle insurance for leased Vans @ \$8,499 and Workers Comp for youth @ \$68,117)	\$ 94,616
Administration \$ 10,647 @ each YOC	\$63,882
Total	\$ 2,000,000

Impact on Citizens and Businesses

The proposed Youth Community Corps project will utilize CARES Act funding to address youth unemployment and to provide additional workforce support to local nonprofits and municipalities that are providing critical community services during the COVID crisis.

Additional Fiscal Information

N/A

Contract History and Price Reasonableness

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

N/A