



Chairperson: Leslie Abasta-Cummings
 Director: Erick Serrato
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**Merced County Workforce Development Board
 Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, May 12, 2022; 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Meeting Location (No Remote Option)
Castle Commerce Center
Merced County Workforce Development Board Admin Office
 1900 Airdrome Entry
 Atwater, CA 95301

Documents related to agenda items that are distributed to the WDB less than 72 hours prior to the meeting shall be available for public inspection at 1900 Airdrome Entry, Atwater, CA 95301 or visit our website at www.worknetmerced.com. Documents distributed to the WDB at the meeting by staff will be available at the meeting; documents distributed to the WDB by members of the public shall be made available after the meeting. This WIOA Title I financially assisted program or activity is an equal opportunity employer/program and auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

ALTERNATE AGENDA FORMATS: If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals with a disability requiring a modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meeting may make these requests to the WDB at 209.724.2041.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment will be available at the meeting for items not on the day's agenda or for comments on specific agenda items. The public is invited to attend the meeting remotely and provide public comment live at the designated times for public comment. These comments will be made part of the record.

Agenda		
1. Call to Order	Roll Call of Members of the Board	Chair Leslie Abasta-Cummings Patricia Hinson
2. Public Opportunity	Public opportunity to speak on any matter of public interest within the Board's jurisdiction, including items on the Executive Committee agenda	Chair Leslie Abasta-Cummings
3. Approval of Minutes	Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2022	Chair Leslie Abasta-Cummings
4. Chair Comments	Comments from the Chair of Merced County Workforce Development Board	Chair Leslie Abasta-Cummings

Merced County Workforce Development Board-Executive Committee

5. Director's Comments	Synopsis of meeting Agenda, special project and partnership updates, legislative news, and other areas of interest	Erick Serrato
6. Fiscal Update	Update on proposed Department Budget, preliminary funding estimates for PY2022-2023, and major fiscal items for the current PY2021-2022	Linda Gutierrez Erick Serrato
7. PY 2022-2023 Contract Drafts	Review of proposed subcontracts and respective deliverables for PY2022-2023 WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth	Reyna Espinoza Erick Serrato
8. Industry Engagement	Update and discussion on "Jobs that Move" (Truck Fest) event planned for June 28, 2022, Industry Sector discussions among the Board, Healthcare projects, and related information	Erick Serrato Mario Pena
9. Merced County Microbusiness Grant	Launch (May 9, 2022) of Microbusiness Grant, review of promotional materials and program goals	Erick Serrato Mario Pena
10. Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)	Update on CERF program and engagement of MCWDB	Erick Serrato
11. Grants Update	Update on grant submissions and awards, pending grants and grants in development	Erick Serrato
12. Future Agendas and Meetings	Discussion of Agenda items for June 22, 2022 Workforce Development Board meeting Discussion of Strategic Planning Retreat in PY2022-2023 New Member Orientation, June 14, 2022, 12noon-1 p.m.	Erick Serrato
13. Adjournment	Adjourning of Executive Committee Meeting	Chair Leslie Abasta-Cummings

The Executive Committee Meeting will be followed by a meeting of the Merced County Workforce Development Council (non-profit).

**Workforce Development Board (WDB)
Executive Committee
Worknet Merced County
1900 Airdrome Entry,
Atwater, CA 95301
March 10, 2022, 4:00 p.m.**



www.worknetmerced.com

Members Present:

Leslie Abasta-Cummings Tim O'Neill
Michael Altomare, Daron McDaniel Jack Mobley

Members Absent:

Vinton Thengvall

Others Present:

Erick Serrato, Reyna Espinoza, Linda Gutierrez, Mario Pena, Patricia Hinson

1. **Call to Order/ Roll Call** – The Board Chairperson, Mrs. Leslie Abasta-Cummings, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.
2. **Public Opportunity to Speak** – None
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Mobley/O'Neill approved September 9, 2021, meeting minutes and to correct the spelling of the last name for member O'Neill.
4. **Chair Comments:** The Chair thanked the members for attending the meeting.
5. **Director's Comments:** Erick thanked everybody for being present at the meeting. He briefly summarized the WDB and WDB Executive Committee activities done in 2021. He shared with members that at the beginning of the year, DWI gave a presentation at the Board of Supervisor's meeting on February 1, 2022. The BOS congratulated WDB members for all of their dedication to the Board.

6. 2022 Activity Calendar: Erick shared with members the following projects

2nd Quarter (April-June)	3rd Quarter (July-September)	4th Quarter (Oct-Dec)
Micro-B12 Grant Launch	Present Childcare Innovations	5 th Grade Guest Spkr Program Launch
MC3-MCOE Construction Graduation	Los Banos Job Center Re-Opening	2nd Annual H.R. MGRs. Breakfast
Announce "ESP" Grant w/CBOs	First Job Center "PD" Opening	Manufacturing Job Fair
Workforce Fact Sheet Launch	Castle Job Center Opening	
Launch Merced Youth Jobs		
2 nd Annual Truck Fest		
Launch New Website & Branding		
Health Care Job Fair		

7. Fiscal Update: Staff provided an update on the following items:

Equus Contract

For the 2021-2022 year, the Equus contract was reduced to approximately \$1.9M. While representing a reduction, this contract size is still larger than most comparable job centers across the State. DWI had multiple meetings to develop a solution with Equus corporate leadership which resulted in the following:

- Reduction of 13 Equus Staff (staff were reassigned to non-Merced County projects)
- Notification to County CEO Office on impacts
- Internal budget modifications to all Equus contracts adding a total of \$393,622.67 to salaries, pulled from other budget line items.

MCOE

WIOA Youth formula allocations have a 20% work experience (WEX) requirement, which is passed down to the Board's subcontractors. MCO FY 21/22 WEX requirement is \$380,000. DWI has continuously monitored contract expenditure rates and noticed the WEX expenditure rate was below minimum benchmarks. As of December 2021, MCOE had spent \$46,504.00.

- As of January 2022, WEX expenditures are \$49,759.50, an increase of \$3,255.00
- MCOE has committed to spending their entire contracted WEX budget
- DWI requested an expenditure plan with key benchmark dates and expenditure marks.

NDWG Opioid Grant

Kern County has let us know that they will not be able to spend \$66,125.93 of their contracted obligations. DWI has been in contact with State to complete a budget modification to the grant, allowing the redistribution of funds to use the funding for staff salaries. This new fund will help address previously mentioned budget modifications.

FY 22/23 Preliminary Budget

Merced County has started its multi-step process of preparing for the county FY22/23 budget. Final budget details will be shared with the Executive Committee at its May 12, 2022, meeting.

8. Grants Update: DWI has been awarded eight (8) grants of approximately 2.2 million dollars. The team has been writing grants, and there are approximately 4M pending.

9. Youth Work Experience Programming: Reyna shared with members that the Youth Committee had its first Youth Meeting on March 10, 2022. The meeting went well. There was a lot of positive feedback from members in regards to the Youth Purpose Statement. The staff took notes and will be redrafting the Youth Statement. Once the redrafting of the Youth Statement is done, it will be shared with the Youth Committee members. Other items shared with members were the Youth Performance outcomes for PY 21/22 youth programs. The Youth committee received a grant from the City of Merced for 1M to do the WtW program together with HSA. Some WDB Executive committee members would like to attend the next Youth Committee meeting in June.

10. CERF: (Community Economic Resilience Fund): In 2021, the State introduced the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) program designed to encourage and fund regional economic development aimed at equity and community stability. CERF identifies more than a dozen regions; Merced County falls within a region containing the counties of Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus. Funding is organized into two categories; Planning and Implementation. The State will consider proposals submitted by non-profits with a history of regional economic and community development known as Conveners. The Merced-Stanislaus-San Joaquin region must first identify a

convener and then develop a proposal for the Planning Grant. Erick has expressed the Board's openness to any role helpful to the CERF process and support for CEO/CED's leadership in identifying the appropriate Convener and organizing proposal components for Merced County.

11. Business Services: Staff shared current activity highlights to include:

Annual Sector Employment Events: Working on exact blueprint of the Truck Fest, staff is exploring two other sector-based employment events tailored to the job seekers and employers of that sector.

- Healthcare Event: May-June 2022
- Truck Fest: (2nd Annual) July 2022
- Manufacturing Event: October 2022

Business Support and Funding: DWI, CED, and SBDC continue their partnership with area chambers to support small businesses.

- CA Microbusiness Grant program: DWI/Board will distribute \$2,500 to very small businesses (\$50,000 revenue or less) as a partner in this grant.
- Working with MCOE Childcare Agency to help home-based childcare providers apply for up to \$75,000 to make necessary renovations or purchase equipment in order to better support children in their care. Staff developed and hosted two application trainings in English and Spanish and will be hosting an application clinic on March 19th.
- Working together in partnership with Merced College and Volt Training Institute to develop Incumbent Worker Training.
- DWI Staff is developing a new model for On-the-Job training that focuses on high-barriers participants and exploring the leveraging of State hiring credits, such as those for the unhoused.

Labor Market Information and Joint Recruitments

- Recruitments events, such as a plan to help Districts recruit and support school bus drivers, job fairs in partnership with the Library in rural communities.
- Development of a Workforce Fact Sheet for Merced County.
- Development of a new website to host County-wide recruitment events and job fairs and also to share labor market information.

12. 501 c-3 Progress: Erick gave an update on the process for the 501 c-3. He shared with members that Board staff have completed the application elements, including 1) Form 1023 Non-Profit Application; 2) Secretary of State Article of Incorporation (Form and Long Form Narrative); 3) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the relationship between the County and the Non-Profit.

All members received copies of forms 1-3 in their meeting packet.

These items are currently under review with the County, and the goal is to have them approved at the Board meeting on March 23rd. The board staff continues working on the procurement of Officers Insurance.

13. Future Agendas & Meetings: WDB meeting at Hilmar Cheese Company-Visitor's Center, on March 23, 2022.
Tour afterward

14. Adjournment

Adjourned at 5:09 p.m.



Executive Committee Meeting – May 12, 2022

Agenda Item 6. Fiscal Update

To:	Merced County Workforce Development Board – Executive Committee
From:	Merced County Workforce Development Board Staff
Date:	May 12, 2022

Background

The Executive Committee is regularly updated on the financial health of the Workforce Board, administered by the County of Merced as the Department of Workforce Investment (DWI). In this way, the annual budget of the Workforce Development Board is also the annual department budget of the Department of Workforce Investment.

The summary, shared with the Executive Committee, includes this fiscal report and dashboard documents. These documents include:

- Any grant active during the program year (PY) is featured in the Fiscal Report and Dashboard.
- All Grants have different start and end dates during the PY.
- Data represented on the Dashboard displays the pacing of expenditures for each grant program.
- Some programs require that most of the grant funding be expended at the start of the program, while others pace expenditures incrementally over the course of the PY.
- Tracking the fiscal life of grant programs ensures that all funds are expended according to the grant cycle.

Discussion

The following items are of note during the current reporting period:

1. Subrecipient Spending FY 21-22 Quarter 3

As of March 31, 2022, both Equus and MCOE should be at or near 75% expenditure.

- Adult/DW: Equus Workforce Solutions
67% expended including the following budget line items:
 - Salaries 80% (Adult 89%, DW 70%)
 - Participant Expenses: 59% (Adult 62%, DW 54%)
 - Performance-based Outcomes earned: 17% (Adult 20%, DW 14%)
- Youth: Merced County Office of Education
60% expended including the following budget line items:
 - Salaries 73%
 - Performance-based Outcomes earned: 39%
 - Participant Services 19.5%

Work Experience Benchmarks

As a result of under-expenditure in mandated spending on youth wages, DWI introduced new periodic expenditure benchmarks.

For 4/30/2022, \$205,279 was the benchmark. \$140,971 was reported.
For 5/10/2022, \$235,640 was the benchmark. \$174,000 was reported.
There is shortfall of \$61,640 in actual expenditures.

2. FY 22/23 Proposed Budget

Proposed budget was submitted to County with a flat revenue allocation, as we do not yet know what the allocation will be. The State has received its portion of the federal formula allocation, and it is 15% above last year. However, it is still unknown to what degree that statewide increase will impact Merced County. Some estimates have Merced County receiving approximately \$300,000 over previous year, which would still be a \$400,000 reduction from pre-pandemic funding levels.

The total amount of the Board (Department) budget is \$8,937,157.00. There will be modifications made for Final budget adding in new grants and modifications for carryover.

Expense Categories	PROPOSED FY 22-23
Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$ 2,305,620.00
Leases and Facilities	\$ 402,099.00
Overhead	\$ 549,523.00
Marketing	\$ 52,641.00
Service Contracts	\$ 2,808,415.00
Professional Subs	\$ 104,980.00
Travel	\$ 67,248.00
DWI Direct Services	\$ 1,302,783.00
Other	\$ 1,343,848.00
Total	\$ 8,937,157.00

A final budget will be presented to the Board at its June 22, 2022 meeting.

Recommended Action

Discussion Item Only



Executive Workforce Development Board Meeting – May 12, 2022

Agenda Item 7. PY 2022-2023 Contract Drafts

To:	Merced County Executive Workforce Development Board
From:	Merced County Workforce Development Board Staff
Date:	May 12, 2022

Background

Under the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA), each Local Area works to negotiate and establish a priority requirement with respect to funds allocated to a local area for adult employment and training activities. When using WIOA Adult funds to provide individualized career services and training services, American Job Center staff must prioritize recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient. Under WIOA, priority must be implemented regardless of the amount of funds available to provide services in the local area.

In Merced County, WIOA funding includes a Pay-for-Performance component (aligned with WIOA Pay-for-Performance contract strategy described in § 683.500) in which 10% of a contract is “held-back,” to be earned by the subrecipient by meeting specific benchmarks. This model has been in place for the Adult and Dislocated Worker contracts since 2019, operated by Equus Workforce Solutions, and was introduced into WIOA Youth programs, operated by Merced County Office of Education, in the current program year. Each year, typically at its June meeting, the Board approves funding and contract parameters for its WIOA Adult & Dislocated, and Youth contracts.

Discussion

The following outlines proposed contract structure for PY 2022-2023 for both the Adult and & Dislocated, and Youth contracts. These were developed in consideration of the following:

- Anticipated reduction of WIOA formula funding from the State, and the 13% year-over-year reduction experience in last year’s allocation;
- Success and gaps in the performance of last year’s contract goals and Performance-Based Outcomes (PBOs); and
- Current economic climate, County and Board priorities, and enhanced service strategies.

WIOA program proposals will continue to build on the foundation of expanding reach in rural communities and extending services beyond our largest cities’ boundaries, offering rapid re-employment assistance, and extending the reach of Department of Workforce Investment services.

The following is presented to the Executive Committee for feedback. A final program proposal will be presented at the June 22, 2022 Board meeting for amendment or approval. Contracts must be approved prior to the beginning of the PY 2022-2023, which begins July 1, 2022.

WIOA ADULT

Subcontractor: Equus Workforce Solutions Funding: (not yet determined)

Category	Proposed (2022-2023)	2021-2022	2020-2021
New Enrollments	200	354	220
Carry-in Enrollments	246	305	175
Rural Enrollment Focus	Westside: 38 Merced: 130 Northside: 26 Eastside: 6	Enrollment in rural census tracts to total 139 or more	Los Banos: 100 New Direction Center and Libraries: 20
Designated Service Hours	Traditional Business Hours Open to 7pm first Thursday of each month	Traditional Business Hours Open to 7pm first Thursday of each month	Traditional Business Hours Open to 7pm first Thursday of each month
Service Locations	Merced AJCC Los Banos AJCC Castle AJCC Virtual – Pods	Merced AJCC Los Banos AJCC Merced College (partial year) New Direction Center (partial year)	Merced AJCC Los Banos AJCC Libraries New Direction Center
Holidays	County holidays except Columbus Day, Lincoln's Birthday, and President's Day Flexibility to add in one to two team-building days in the contract when they will not be available to the public	County holidays except Lincoln's Birthday and President's Day	All County holidays
Business Services	Mostly moved from Contractor to DWI/Board Staff	Provided by Contractor with direction from DWI/Board Staff	Provided by Contractor with direction from DWI/Board Staff
Performance-Based Outcomes	Closures with employment Completion of OJT/CT w/MSG Employment hourly wage of \$18.00 or more Completion of ITA w/IRC Veteran or eligible spouse enrollment	Closures with (\$171.50) employment Enrollment in rural census tracts (\$149.00) Customer satisfaction survey (\$25.00) Employment hourly wage of \$18.00 or more (\$156.00) Completion of OJT/CT w/MSG (\$179.00) Completion of ITA w/IRC (\$179.00) Each enrollment beyond 354 (\$100.00) Veteran or eligible spouse enrollment (\$60.66)	New enrollments (\$25.08) Employment in WDB sector (\$215.01) Training in WDB sector (\$190.30) Completion of occupational skills training (\$275.20) Employment not in WDB sector (\$143.94)
Follow Up Services	Only required to make available for some	Required for every exited client	Required for every exited client

WIOA DISLOCATED WORKER

Category	Proposed (2022-2023)	2021-2022	2020-2021
New Enrollments	163	210	200
Carry-in Enrollments	200	270	150
Rural Enrollment Focus	Westside: 31 Merced: 106 Northside: 21 Eastside: 5	Enrollment in rural census tracts to total 116 or more	Los Banos: 75 New Direction Center and Libraries: 20
Designated Service Hours	Traditional Business Hours Open to 7pm first Thursday of each month	Traditional Business Hours Open to 7pm first Thursday of each month	Traditional Business Hours
Service Locations	Merced AJCC Los Banos AJCC Castle AJCC Virtual – Pods	Merced AJCC Los Banos AJCC Merced College (partial year) New Direction Center (partial year)	Merced AJCC Los Banos AJCC Libraries New Direction Center
Holidays	County holidays except Columbus Day, Lincoln's Birthday, and President's Day Flexibility to add in one to two team-building days in the contract when they will not be available to the public	County holidays except Lincoln's Birthday and President's Day	All County holidays
Business Services	Mostly moved from Contractor to DWI/Board Staff	Provided by Contractor with direction from DWI/Board Staff	Provided by Contractor with direction from DWI/Board Staff
Performance-Based Outcomes	Closures with employment Completion of OJT/CT w/MSG Veteran or eligible spouse enrollment Completion of ITA w/IRC Each enrollment beyond 200	Closures with employment (\$147.50) Completion of OJT/CT w/MSG (\$146.00) Enrollment in rural census tracts (\$146.00) Employment with hourly wage of \$18.00 (\$87.00) Veteran or eligible spouse enrollment (\$77.20) Customer satisfaction survey (\$25.00) Each enrollment beyond 210 (\$100.00)	New enrollments (\$23.95) Employment in WDB sector (\$205.29) Training in WDB sector (\$222.80) Completion of occupational skills training (\$319.35) Employment not in WDB sector (\$136.86)
Follow Up Services	Only required to make available for some	Required for every exited client	Required for every exited client

Subcontractor: Equus Workforce Solutions Funding: (not yet determined)

WIOA YOUTH

Subcontractor: Merced County Office of Education (MCOE)

Funding: (not yet determined)

Category	Proposed (2022-2023)	2021-2022	2020-2021
New Enrollments	210	310	311
Carry-in Enrollments	62	N/A	116
Rural Enrollment Focus	Westside: 40 Merced: 137 Northside: 27 Eastside: 6	Westside: 60 Merced: 200 Northside: 40 Eastside: 10	Westside: 45
Designated Service Hours	Traditional Business Hours	Traditional Business Hours	Traditional Business Hours
Service Locations	Merced – MCOE Center Stephen Leonard Park Los Banos AJCC	Merced – MCOE Center	Merced – MCOE Center
Holidays	County holidays except Columbus Day, Lincoln's Birthday, and President's Day Flexibility to add in one to two team-building days in the contract when they will not be available to the public	County holidays except Lincoln's Birthday and President's Day	All County holidays
Business Services	Provided by Contractor with direction from DWI/Board Staff	Provided by Contractor with direction from DWI/Board Staff	Provided by Contractor with direction from DWI/Board Staff
Performance-Based Outcomes	High School Dropout Enrollment Achievement of HS Diploma/GED Justice Involved Enrollment Industry Recognized Credential Obtained WEX placement in rural communities	High School Dropout Enrollment (\$437.00) Achievement of High School Diploma/GED (\$443.33) Foster Youth Enrollment (\$429.00) Justice Involved enrollment (\$456.00) Migrant Education participant (\$380.14) IRC Obtained (\$422.22) Employment Training Related (\$465.50) Completion of OJT w/MSG (\$760.00) WEX placement in rural communities (\$443.33)	None
Follow Up Services	Only required to make available for some	Required for every exited client	Required for every exited client

Recommended Action
Discussion Item Only



Executive Committee Meeting – May 12, 2022

Agenda Item 8. Industry Engagement

To:	Merced County Workforce Development Board – Executive Committee
From:	Merced County Workforce Development Board Staff
Date:	May 12, 2022

Background

The Executive Committee is regularly updated on business and industry engagement items.

Discussion

There are a number of industry-facing activities led by the Board (Department). These include:

- Second-annual Truck Fest, rebranded as “Jobs that Move” (JTM) to include the diversity of jobs in the Goods Movement Sector, and to highlight recent developments at Castle Commerce Center. JTM is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, from 11 am to 3 pm at Castle Commerce Center. Staff will partner with multiple community-based organizations and trainers and partner with the Port of LA, HOT 104.7, and Radio Lobo 98.7 FM. DWI business staff will recruit over 50 companies and vendors, live entertainment, ask a pro (trucker) for tips, and free food from various food trucks.
- The Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) for Merced County (led by the Merced County Department of Public Health) includes various community-based organizations, employers, and other County departments. The goal of the HLC is to provide executive-level support and a decision-making entity to help implement specific health programs and/or activities in Merced County. The Workforce Board will lead the council’s pillar on Workforce Development.
- Members of the Board were invited to participate in two informational sessions about the Board’s priority sectors and plans to adjust those sectors based on current industry needs. The first session attracted five board members. The second will take place on Wednesday, May 11 and focus on career pathway development.

Recommended Action

Discussion Item Only



Executive Committee Meeting – May 12, 2022

Agenda Item 9. Merced County Microbusiness Grant

To:	Merced County Workforce Development Board – Executive Committee
From:	Merced County Workforce Development Board Staff
Date:	May 12, 2022

Background

The Merced County Workforce Development Board regularly pursues opportunities to support small business owners and entrepreneurs. One such opportunity has been the California Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant. The Workforce Board, via the Department (DWI)and County, applied for and secured \$359,000 to support 115 grants of \$2,500 to be awarded to businesses with less than \$50,000 in annual revenue and five or less employees. At its March 10, 2022 meeting, the Executive Committee encouraged staff to include in its program launch an emphasis on eligible uses of grants funds.

Eligibility for the grant award includes: began its business before December 31, 2019; five full-time employees or less; currently open or plan to reopen; impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and saw a 10% reduction in revenue from 2019 to 2020; made less than \$50K in revenues for the 2019 taxable year; and the business did not receive the CA Relief Grant in 2021. Recipients may use the grant for the following: purchase of equipment; investment in working capital (i.e., payroll, rent); application for renewal, local permit, business license, etc.; business debt accrued due to the pandemic; COVID-19 supplies; and other expenses.

Discussion:

The Merced County Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant went live to all micro-size business owners on Monday, May 9, 2022 via the website MCBizGrants.com. The application portal will remain open until August 9, 2022 or until funds are expended. As required by the grant, DWI partnered with five (5) community-based organizations: Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Los Banos Chamber of Commerce, Central Valley Opportunity Center, Merced Lao Family, and the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation. These partners will provide technical assistance and application support to small business owners in need of financial assistance.

As part of its marketing, the program includes promotional flyers in English and Spanish, and social media marketing in Hmong, English, and Spanish. In addition to this media push, DWI staff will coordinate with partners to host application clinics in swap meets and other areas where applicants may congregate.

Recommended Action

Discussion Item Only



Executive Committee Meeting – May 12, 2022

Agenda Item 10. CERF (Community Economic Resilience Fund)

To:	Merced County Workforce Development Board – Executive Committee
From:	Merced County Workforce Development Board Staff
Date:	May 12, 2022

Background

The Merced County Workforce Development Board is supportive of economic development projects that work to ensure that residents have access to quality career pathways and that businesses have access to the skilled workforce they need to remain competitive. In the 2021-22 Program Year, this has included assistance provided to individual business owners, administration of small-business grants, and support of projects led by the Merced County Community and Economic Development Department (CED).

Workforce boards are often seen as valuable partners in such economic projects because they have the capacity to bring together a diversity of partners (business, labor, education, and community-based organizations), have access to valuable workforce intelligence, and have a track-record of projects aimed at job quality and economic stability.

Discussion

In 2021, The State introduced the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) program which is designed to encourage and fund regional economic development aimed at equity and community stability. CERF identifies more than a dozen regions; Merced County falls within a region containing the counties of Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus.

The three-county region stands to receive \$5M in planning funds for an 18- to 24-month planning period, with a subsequent implementation request based on the selection of priority economic development projects. Proposals must be submitted by a “team” that includes a Convener (lead organization), a fiscal agent, and a Coordinator (community-focused coordinator helping organize and advance activities). The current proposed structure includes San Joaquin Economic Development Partnership as Convener, Merced College as a fiscal agent, and Stanislaus Equity Partners as Coordinator. Each County in the region will be organized by a local organization. In Merced County, it is believed the Workforce Development Board will lead local convening. The Workforce Development Board may, at its June 22, 2022 meeting, create a working group to focus on the CERF process.

Recommended Action

Discussion Item Only



Executive Committee Meeting – May 12, 2022

Agenda Item 11. Grants Update

To:	Merced County Workforce Development Board – Executive Committee
From:	Merced County Workforce Development Board Staff
Date:	May 12, 2022

Background

The Executive Committee is regularly updated on the status of grant submission, awards and declinations. The securing of discretionary or special grants is critical to the mission of the Workforce Board, as Formula Funding only accounts for approximately 60% of the Board's annual budget.

Discussion

The following includes all grant submissions of the current program year (PY 21-22).

Grant Request and Funder	Program Description	Submitted	Status
\$299,000 RERP	Part of a Central Valley RPU proposal, Merced County program focusing on training via Merced College in Industrial Technology.	5/6/22	Pending
\$3.815M CaliforniansForAll	To provide County-wide youth (ages 16-30) WEX in community-based activities.	2/15/22	Awarded
\$13M* EDA – Good Jobs Challenge	A Central Valley Workforce Board initiative focused on health care pathways; 8 workforce boards in coalition	2/10/22	Pending
\$392,000 COVID-19 NWDG – Part 2	To extend program through March 2023 and add a referral coordinator to help serve jobseekers.	2/7/22	Awarded (\$100,000)
\$118,000 Prison2Employment – Part 2	Additional funding redistributed from other workforce boards who had not fully expended	1/10/22	Awarded
\$500,000 CA-EDD ESP Grant (Special Populations)	To implement a new system of partnership with local community organizations to serve probationers, the homeless, and those with disabilities.	11/1/22	Awarded
\$1,025,000 City of Merced	To provide summer youth employment in 2022 and 2023 for Merced City youth.	Council Action	Awarded
\$359,000 CA GOBiz MicroBusiness Grant	To provide 115 microbusinesses in Merced County with \$2,500 grants.	11/10/21	Awarded
\$20,000 (MCWDB portion) Libraries Grant - CA WDB	To support partnership with Merced County Library (applicant), portal access system.	7/10/21	Awarded
\$150,000 (MCWDB portion) James Irvine foundation	Partnership with Nurture.org to identify childcare strategies for Merced County.	8/11/21	Awarded

Grant Awards:

Q1 (Jul-Sep)	Q2 (Oct-Dec)	Q3 (Jan-Mar)	Q4 (Apr-Jun)	TOTAL
\$170,000	\$1,384,000	\$718,000		\$2,272,000

(* Total request by RPU)

Recommended Action

Discussion Item Only