



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

WIA/ARRA Adult and Dislocated Worker Program DIRECTIVE

Number: WIA/ARRA ADW D09-07 **Subject:** Workforce Investment Act (WIA)/
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
WIB-Approved Special Projects, Priorities and
Initiatives to Be Coordinated with WIA/ARRA

Date: July 1, 2009

Effective Date: July 1, 2009

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OVERVIEW:

The County of Los Angeles has received WIA/ARRA allocations under the Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs totaling \$32,484,919. Given this significant increase to the County's overall WIA funding, the Workforce Investment Board has approved a plan to coordinate WIA/ARRA programs and services with other local programs, priorities and initiatives, which are described herein.

Purpose:

This directive provides information regarding coordination of County WIA/ARRA programs with a variety of County-based projects and initiatives and offers guidance to WIA contractors for effectively coordinating services with these projects.

Scope:

This directive applies to all County contractors receiving WIA/ARRA funds under the Adult, Dislocated Worker and/or Youth programs.

Effective Date:

This directive is effective on July 1, 2009.

BACKGROUND

ARRA provides significant funding for WIA to support employment and training services as part of a comprehensive program to stimulate the U.S. economy. Based on the overarching goals and objectives of the Recovery Act, the County has developed a WIA/ARRA Implementation Plan, which has been approved by the Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board (WIB). In addition to providing an overview of WIA/ARRA objectives and summarizing WIB policies, the plan outlines a series of projects and County initiatives with which WIA/ARRA programs should be coordinated.

POLICY/PROCEDURES

Policy:

The County seeks to provide coordinated services to its residents and to maximize efficiencies whenever possible. To this end, WIA Stimulus funding and services must be integrated and coordinated with other County ARRA efforts and plans. On April 2, 2009 the WIB approved a policy to support the following special projects, priorities and initiatives outlined within the County's WIA/ARRA Implementation Plan. Therefore, County WIA Contractors should identify opportunities and strategies to coordinate their WIA/ARRA-funded programs and services with the following initiatives:

WIB Industry-Based Training Priority

The WIB has mandated that forty-five percent (45%) of all WIA/ARRA Adult and Dislocated funds will be reserved for a combination of training and support/needs-based payments. In concert with this goal, the WIB will identify targeted industry sectors, which respond to employers' training needs, to be given priority under the WIA/ARRA program.

DPSS Subsidized Employment Project

On March 3, 2009, Supervisor Knabe introduced a motion instructing the County CEO to assess the feasibility of coordinating 10,000 employment opportunities for DPSS CalWORKS and non-CalWORKS clients with County departments, private sector businesses, non-profit organizations and local municipalities. The CEO's plan includes a role for CSS and its WIA program to provide occupational training to some of the individuals served by the DPSS TANF TSE Program and make referrals to appropriate employment opportunities. The CEO's plan also includes the use of the WIA Summer Youth Program to provide subsidized employment opportunities for DPSS TANF and GR youth in work experience and internship positions in County departments and with other public and private agencies. CSS will serve as the coordinator for the work experience positions identified by all the County departments for this project and function as the liaison between County departments and the DPSS TSE contractor, as well as WIA contractors.

County Vendor Hiring Requirements

On February 24, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas directed the CEO to develop recommendations to ensure that contractors and vendors who seek to do business with the County be required to provide jobs, job training and similar programs to at-risk youth. Upon the implementation of this policy, at-risk youth served by the WIA/ARRA Program may be referred for such opportunities to companies doing business with the County.

Florence-Firestone Demonstration Project

The WIB has allocated \$130,000 in PY 2007-2008 WIA funding to the Florence-Firestone Demonstration Project to provide intensive workforce development services to youth and adults in this community. The CEO requested that additional resources for project be identified through WIA Stimulus funds. In response, the WIB approved \$450,000 from WIA Stimulus funds to be allocated to the project effective July 2009.

High-Growth and High-Demand Jobs Initiative

As ARRA emphasizes the need to target high-growth/high-demand occupations, including green jobs/skills, higher education providers such as the community colleges and universities (including the University of Southern California) may make available such training to WIA participants. County WIA contractors will access these training programs on behalf of their clients through the existing Individual Training Account (ITA) system available through I-TRAIN.

General Relief Job Training Project

Currently there are more than 5,000 young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who are on the County's General Relief Case Load. Youth in this category have the need for intensive employment readiness, career development and occupational skills training services. Working closely with DPSS, CSS will ensure that such youth are referred to WIA providers receiving Recovery Act funding.

Coordination with County-Wide Gang Suppression Strategy

On January 6, 2009, the County Board of Supervisors approved the development of a comprehensive prevention, intervention and suppression strategy, aimed at reducing gang membership and violence. Strategies will be piloted in four areas of the County: Florence/Firestone; Harbor Gateway, Pacoima and Monrovia/Duarte. The County will coordinate with WIBs serving these communities to promote the use of WIA/ARRA services to help limit gang affiliation and activities, particularly among youth.

Coordination of WIA and Older American Act Title V Employment Programs

As CSS administers employment programs funded under both WIA and Title V of the Older Americans Act, the CEO has requested that the department and the WIB develop strategies to coordinate Stimulus-funded activities between the two programs in order to ensure that mature workers receive the necessary services and support to benefit from employment opportunities identified under ARRA.

Regional Coordination

The County, CSS and the WIB are committed to participating in regional planning on the use of WIA Stimulus funds, which will include working with the Los Angeles Regional Workforce Collaborative, headed by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. In addition, working with the Department of Human Resources (DHR) and all County departments, CSS will coordinate subsidized employment opportunities available within County departments among all seven WIBs in the County for projects such as the WIA Summer Youth Employment Program as well as the TANF TSE project.

Procedures:

In order to meet the requirements of the above-described policy, WIA contractors must develop and implement internal procedures describing their plans to coordinate WIA/ARRA programs and services with the projects, priorities and initiatives outlined above.

ACTION

Los Angeles County WIA Contractors should ensure that the policies and procedures described herein are communicated throughout the operations, management and governance structure of the contractor organization and that this directive is appropriately maintained until further notice.

INQUIRIES

If you have any questions regarding this directive, please contact Maggie Mireles, Program Manager, at (213) 738-2198 or Irene Pelayo at (213) 351-5246 or by e-mail at ipelayo@css.lacounty.gov.



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