

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 2/13/04
Department Name: Social Services
Department No.: 044
Agenda Date: 4/6/04
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kathy M. Gallagher, Director
Social Services Department

STAFF CONTACT: Jack Williams
x8357

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WELFARE-TO-WORK GRANT PROGRAM AGREEMENTS

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Execute an amendment to the scope of work agreements with the three vendors that provide job placement and job retention services under the Department of Labor (DOL) Welfare-to-Work (WtW) Grant Program in response to legislation passed effective January 23, 2004.

- A. Work, Inc.
- B. Work Training Programs Inc.
- C. Curtis and Associates (a.k.a. ACS)

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 7: Strengthen the Safety and Well-Bing of Children and Their Families to Ensure a Strong Future for Our Community.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In early December, Social Services agencies where notified that congress enacted a law that would rescind funding for the Department of Labor, Welfare to Work programs and that it would be signed sometime in January 2004. On December 11, 2003 in accordance with our contractual agreement, The Department of Social Services notified the three vendors in writing to prepare for the anticipated contract termination.

On January 23, 2004 the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2004 (HR 2673). This bill rescinds funding for the Department of Labor (DOL), Welfare to Work program on that day. The Department of Social Services immediately informed the three vendors in writing on January 27, 2004. In accordance with the new Act, The County of Santa Barbara Department of Social Services will be unable to pay for any goods or services, except "closeout costs" associated with the DOL WtW Contract beyond the date of enactment. Goods or service provided to clients in the program after the date of enactment cannot be billed.

The amendment limits the scope of services to activities that the Secretary of Labor determines are necessary to carry out administrative activities relating to closeout. These costs include such items as penalties for early determination of leases, and personnel costs relating to the final report and closeout of grant activities.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 amended the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and authorized the Department of Labor to provide welfare-to-work grants to states and local communities. The purpose of these grants was to create job opportunities for the hardest-to-employ TANF recipients, non-custodial parents and those with multiple barriers to employment. In 1999 through legislative amendment, the DOL eligibility criterion was expanded to include youth transitioning out of Foster Care.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2004 (HR 2673) was signed in law on Friday January 23, 2004. This law implements the rescission of all unexpended Welfare-to-Work Grant Program funds effective this date, except for those funds needed to closeout the program. Due to the early termination of this grant program, the State will be required to recoup any unexpended funds remaining after payment of any necessary closeout costs. Therefore, effective January 24, 2004 the focus of this contract will be related to close out activities consistent with instructions from the Department of Labor. Appropriations for this contract are in the approved 2003/2004 Budget. The revenues and the appropriation for this contract are included in the Workforce Investment Act cost center of the Public Assistance Program Division shown on page D214 of the budget. Funding comes from a Department of Labor grant received from the Employment Development Department. This program requires no County funds as it is 100% funded by federal funds. There will be no impact to Social Services staffing.

Attachments:

- Letter to Work Inc. dated Dec. 11, 2004
- Letter to Work Training Programs Inc. dated Dec. 11, 2004
- Letter to Curtis and Associates (a.k.a. ACS) dated Dec 11, 2004
- Letter to Work Inc. dated Jan 27, 2004
- Letter to Work Training Programs Inc. dated Jan 27, 2004
- Letter to Curtis and Associates (a.k.a. ACS) dated Jan 27, 2004
- Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor – Work Inc.
- Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor – Work Training Programs Inc.
- Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor – Curtis and Associates (a.k.a. ACS)

Special Instructions:

After execution by the Chair, please return one (1) originally signed agreement for each contractor, the Department copy of each agreement, and one (1) copy of the minute order to the Department of Social Services, Attention: Hilary Yost.

Concurrence:

Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
Risk Management