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CITY OF OAKLAND



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May 12, 2009

Community Economic Development Committee
Oakland, California

Chairperson De La Fuente and Members of the Committee:

RE: Report and Possible Action on the California Green Jobs Corps Pilot Program to Train At-Risk Youth for Technical, Construction and Other Skilled Jobs in Eco-Friendly Industries Expected to Help Fuel Economic Recovery, as Part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Federal Government's "Stimulus Package")

SUMMARY

This is a report providing information on the California Green Jobs Corps pilot program to train at-risk youth for technical, construction and other skilled jobs in eco-friendly industries expected to help fuel economic recovery ("California Green Jobs Corp") and the City's possible application. The funding is made available by the California Employment Development Department and California Volunteers, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, Workforce Investment Act.

FISCAL IMPACT

Guidelines for the California Green Jobs Corp restrict grant amounts up to \$1 million per grant award. If the City of Oakland submits a grant application, fiscal impacts will be provided at that time.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

The California Green Jobs Corp grant guidelines were recently released on May 1, 2009.

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A. Grant Overview

Launched in March 2009, the California Green Jobs Corps was created to revive California's economy while assisting at-risk young people to learn job skills necessary to accommodate the emerging green economy. The State created the California Green Jobs Corp utilizing \$10 million from ARRA funds that the State received. The Corp will operate a pilot program that will train and help place at least 1,000 at-risk youth (ages 16-24) into green jobs over the next 20 months.

On May 1, 2009, the California Employment Development Department (EDD) and California Volunteers (CV) issued a Solicitation for Proposals (SFP) for funding to operate local Green Jobs Corps pilot programs. The state EDD and CV will fund 10 innovative programs, with a goal of at least one in each of California's nine economic regions. The maximum amount of each award is \$1 million.

The state EDD grant provides the City of Oakland with unique opportunities—not only to help further the City's goal of serving as a national model for effective utilization of stimulus funds, but also to help “green” our City while assisting at-risk young people to develop job skills for the emerging green economy. Moreover, the state EDD grant affords the City of Oakland both short-term and long-term benefits; the CGJC will not only immediately employ at-risk Oakland youth, but also prepare them to continue their education and continue to contribute to their community through community service activities, while addressing their job training and job placement needs.

B. Grant Guidelines¹

The following is a summary of the main aspects of the California Green Jobs Corp grant guidelines.

1. Eligible Applicants

There are two eligible lead applicants for the California Green Jobs Corp grant: (1) Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs); and (2) Community College Districts or Local Community Colleges (Community Colleges). The designated lead applicant is required to partner with a LWIB or Community College (whichever is not the lead), as well as at least one non-profit organization and one employer.

2. Permissible Uses of the EDD Grant

Use of funds awarded by the California Green Jobs Corp grant are governed by the ARRA, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), and its associated federal regulations, state and federal directives, and federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars. Funds awarded under this grant cannot be used to purchase real property or to construct buildings.

¹ *Information Notice, Workforce Services*, California Employment Development Department, WSIN08-54, April 21, 2009.

The State of California expects that the performance period for grants awarded under this solicitation will be 20 months. No obligation or commitment of funds will be allowed prior to or beyond the grant period of performance. Any grant funds not expended during the grant performance period must be returned to the State.

3. Community Participation in the EDD Grant Application Process

To be eligible for this grant, the lead applicant must conduct a community forum on or before May 15, 2009. Prior to the actual forum, the applicant must submit the *Community Forums Notification Form*, due on May 8, 2009.

4. “Match” Funding Requirements

Lead applicants are required to leverage other public and private resources to support and sustain WIA project activities.² Applicants must demonstrate a dollar-for-dollar cash and/or in-kind match.³

5. Program Requirements

- a. The grant application must target at-risk youth—who are in or out of school—between the ages of 16 and 24.
- b. The program design must include a Community Service component which will introduce California Green Jobs Corps to the broader community while also providing “real-life connection” to the education requirements (described below). At a minimum, the service component must be 20 hours for in-school youth and 100 hours for out-of-school youth.
- c. Grant fund recipients will be required to provide participants with uniforms (or other related apparel) bearing the California Green Jobs Corp logo.
- d. Youth participants must receive an educational program in civic responsibility and environmental stewardship. This component must provide participants with training and practical experiences that assist them in attaining knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are necessary for active civic engagement.
- e. All grant applications must discuss follow-up services for participants after they are placed in unsubsidized employment and after they have exited from the project (these include career counseling, peer support groups, and information about additional educational opportunities).

² The Guidelines specifically state that it is “the intent of [this] SFP to fund projects that can leverage other resources to maximize the impact of the project and the return on investment and to better ensure sustainability.”

³ The “match” amount may include WIA or non-WIA funds made available to the City of Oakland to be used specifically for project activities.

C. Status of Assessing the City's Role

This grant provides opportunities for the City to build upon its innovative initiatives and partnerships, including the City's model Green Jobs Corp and its participation in the East Bay Green Corridor Partnership (EBGCP). Established in 2007 by the cities of Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland and Richmond, the University of California, Berkeley, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the partnership is a regional initiative working to strengthen the economy through support for emerging green and sustainable industries, green job development, and alternative energy research with a goal to establish the region as a national leader in green innovation. Staff is in communication with the EBGCP partners to coordinate efforts. We are exploring the viability of submitting an application through the EBGCP versus the City submitting separately. Further information will be provided at the Committee hearing as well as in a supplemental report.

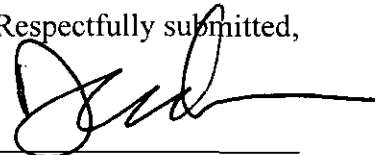
D. Important Deadlines

Event	Date/Deadline
Announcement of EDD Grant Guidelines	May 1, 2009
Last Date to Submit Community Forum Notification Form	May 8, 2009
Last Date to Submit Written Questions to EDD (via email)	May 13, 2009
Last Date to Conduct Local Community Forum	May 15, 2009
Proposals Due	May 26, 2009 (3:00 PM)
Proposal Review and Evaluation	May 28, 2009 through June 12, 2009
Award Announcements	June 2009
Program Start Date	June 30, 2009

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The City may submit an application to the State Green Jobs Corp, however, no action is requested at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Lindheim
City Administrator