



REPORT

DATE: For the Agenda of August 16, 2002

ITEM 103

REPORT NO.: HCR02-073

SUBJECT: Application to the U.S. Department of Education's Community Technology Centers Grant Program (Council Districts 3, 4, 6)

SUMMARY

Issue: Should the Housing Commission ratify the submission of an application for funding to the U.S. Department of Education's Community Technology Centers Program in order to support and strengthen existing Learning Opportunity Centers?

Recommendation: Ratify submission of an application for funding to the U.S. Department of Education's Community Technology Centers Program, authorize amendment of the FY03 Housing Commission Budget to reflect addition of awarded funds, and authorize execution of all required documents.

Fiscal Impact: A successful application would result in receipt of \$175,695 in Department of Education funding to support computer-based Adult Basic Education and English-as-a-Second-Language Instruction, Computer Training Certificate Courses, After-school Computer Instruction, existing staff salaries and benefits, other related costs and indirect administrative costs.

Previous Related Action(s): No previous action has been taken by the Housing Commission regarding this application. The Housing Commission did ratify an application (which was not funded) to last year's Community Technology Centers Program during its meeting of July 20, 2001 (HCR01-086).

BACKGROUND

In a Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) published June 4, 2002, the Department of Education (ED) invited applications for one-year awards for Community Technology Centers Program grants, to be submitted no later than July 19, 2002. The NIA made available an estimated \$15 million in funding, and the ED expects to award eighty-three (83) grants averaging approximately \$180,000 each.

The purpose of the Community Technology Centers Program is “to assist eligible applicants to create or expand community technology centers that will provide disadvantaged residents of economically distressed urban and rural communities with access to information technology and related training.” The Housing Commission currently operates seven (7) Learning Opportunity Centers (LOCs) with computer labs, other technology resources, and related training and educational services. Through extensive collaborations with community-based organizations and educational institutions, the Housing Commission has developed successful programs and strategies for providing assisted housing participants with access to computer technologies and services to support participants’ academic achievement and self-sufficiency goals.

DISCUSSION

This Housing Commission’s proposal, entitled *Learning Opportunity Centers: Links to Self Sufficiency*, requests funding to support services at LOCs located within the Juniper Street, Market Street, Santa Margarita and University Canyon developments. The application requests financial support for: Adult Basic Education and English-as-a-Second Language Instruction Services to be provided by San Diego Community College District instructors; Computer Instruction and Training Services, to be provided by Occupational Training Services, Inc; other related costs, such as internet connectivity, technical assistance for LOC technology, supplies for the LOCs, educational materials and software; evaluation activities to be performed by an external consultant, as recommended within the NIA; salaries and benefits for 0.35 FTE of an existing staff position; and indirect administrative costs.

Housing Commission staff reviewed the ED’s scoring and evaluations of last year’s application and made adjustments to strengthen this year’s submittal. The Housing Commission is asked to ratify submission of this grant application because it was not possible to bring it to the Housing Commission for authorization prior to submission. This was due to the short timeframe provided for preparing the application and the need to coordinate program design plans closely with partner agencies.

ALTERNATIVES

Do not ratify submission of an application to the ED for a Community Technology Centers Program grant. This is not recommended because it would eliminate a potential source of funding for the LOCs, adversely affecting the on-going access of residents to computer technology and training services.

CONCLUSION

The funding application described within this report will support the Housing Commission’s goals to “Further resident initiatives including opportunities for self-sufficiency and self-

improvement” and to “Forge partnerships with others in the community to expand housing opportunities and integrated services.”

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,

Signature on File with Original Document

Steve Snyder
Asset Management Manager

Elizabeth C. Morris
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment:

- 1: Proposed Budget for Community Technology Centers Program Grant