



Good Neighbors

San Diego
Housing Commission

REPORT

DATE: For the Agenda of November 17, 2000 **ITEM 103**

REPORT NO. HCR00-108

SUBJECT: Authorization to Apply for Governor's, Fiscal Year 2000-2001,
Workforce Investment Act 15% Discretionary Funds (Citywide)

SUMMARY

Issue: Should the Housing Commission ratify the application for Governor's FY00-01 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) 15% Discretionary Funds, and seek Housing Authority approval to authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to amend the FY01 Housing Commission Budget to reflect the addition of awarded funds and execute all required documents?

Recommendation: That the Housing Commission ratify the preliminary application for Governor's WIA 15% Discretionary Funds (**Attachment 1**) to continue and expand workforce development services, and seek Housing Authority approval to authorize the CEO to amend the FY01 Housing Commission Budget (**Attachment 2**), and execute all required documents.

Fiscal Impact: A successful application will result in receipt of approximately \$975,000 in program funds, with a portion of that funding available for program staffing. Programs would be self-sustaining.

Previous Related Action(s): In 1998, the Housing Commission approved successful applications for two Welfare to Work grants: the \$1.4 million Governor's 15% Special Projects Fund grant for the CommunityWORKs program, and the \$2.3 million San Diego Workforce Partnership grant.

BACKGROUND

The Housing Commission and its collaborative partners sought and obtained approximately \$3.7 million in Department of Labor Welfare to Work funds in 1998. The local CommunityWORKs program was designed by community leaders and professional practitioners in response to the



knowledge that "hard to serve" Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients need more intensive services than the state's CalWORKs program could provide.

Since the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act in 1996, San Diego has mirrored the nation in witnessing a dramatic reduction in the number of families receiving public assistance. However, there remains an extremely large number of long-term welfare recipients, and working poor, who lack vocational skills, as well as access to an ever increasingly complex system of resources to achieve self-sufficiency.

The California Workforce Investment Board recently invited proposals for projects to be considered for approximately \$20 million in funding from the Governor's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) 15% Discretionary Funds. The Housing Commission was notified of the availability of this financial support during the week of October 16, 2000, and applications were due on October 31, 2000.

Those proposals most responsive to the State's priorities and which offer the greatest assurance of successful implementation will be considered for amounts to be negotiated. The Governor will make final funding decisions, taking into consideration the California Workforce Investment Board's funding recommendations.

DISCUSSION

The Housing Commission has demonstrated a high degree of success in providing a full range of workforce development services to "hard to serve" TANF recipients, through the Governor's 15% Special Project Welfare-to-Work Funds. Many public housing residents, however, were excluded from this program due to eligibility restrictions regarding maximum household income.

The proposed CommunityWORKs II (CWII) program will enable the Housing Commission to continue and expand this demonstration project. The goal of CWII will be to place "hard to serve" WIA-eligible adults in unsubsidized employment in occupations with established local growth and career ladders, thereby promoting self-sufficiency for households currently in subsidized housing. CWII participants will include Public Housing and Section 8 residents from Centre City and Mid-City.

Services will be offered in three Learning Opportunity Centers (LOCs) located in public housing sites. These neighborhood-based LOCs are electronically linked to the Career Center Network, making it easy for participants to access the full range of local workforce development information and services.

Participants will be guided through the program with the aid of community advocates from selected community-based organizations. Faith-based organizations will serve as a safety net by providing supportive services.

In conclusion, the CWII program supports the vision of the Housing Commission to assist resident families in their pursuit of economic self-reliance through access to workforce development activities and other supportive services.

ALTERNATIVE

Do not ratify the Housing Commission's application for Governor's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) 15% Discretionary Funds. This is not recommended, because a successful application will provide additional resources to continue and expand access to workforce development services at public housing LOCs for families seeking self-sufficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Duplechan
Director of Housing Programs

**Signature on File
With Original Document**

Approved by,

Elizabeth C. Morris
Chief Executive Officer

- Attachments: 1. Narrative Proposal
2. Proposed Amendment to FY01 Housing Commission Budget