

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 3.53
(ID # 22170)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, June 27, 2023

FROM : HOUSING AND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS:

SUBJECT: HOUSING AND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (HWS/WDD): Approval of the Hire District 5 Program to connect Job Seekers and Businesses; District 5. [\$846,000- 100% American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the project is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3);
2. Authorize the Director of Housing and Workforce Solutions (HWS), or designee, to review and approve the applications from eligible businesses to implement the Hire District 5 program; and
3. Authorize the Director of HWS, or designee, to take all steps necessary to execute the Hire District 5 program including, but not limited to, signing subsequent essential agreements and relevant documents, and executing any amendments, subject to approval as to form by County Counsel.

ACTION:Policy

Heidi Marshall, Director

6/9/2023

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 846,000	\$ 846,000	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: 100% ARPA Funds			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: 2023-2024, 2024-2025	

C.E.O. Recommendation: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding economic crisis have undermined the health and economic wellbeing of American workers. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 provided support to communities that have struggled in the wake of COVID-19. Specifically, ARPA provided \$130 billion in local funding for cities and counties. Of these funds, \$65 billion is allocated for counties based on the county’s population. Eligible uses of these funds include, but are not limited to, assistance to small businesses, households, hard-hit industries, and economic recovery.

As a result of the unprecedented surge in financial instability and labor shortages, the County of Riverside Department of Housing and Workforce Solutions/Workforce Development Division (HWS/WDD) proposes to partner with businesses in District 5 that are experiencing a labor shortage by connecting them with District 5 job seekers through a new pilot program called “Hire District 5.” The purpose of this initiative is to connect individuals, including seniors, veterans, and other job seekers, to high-demand jobs in the labor market. This initiative is designed to fill job vacancies with the support of the WDD while helping residents obtain employment.

The Hire District 5 program will provide a \$1,000 stipend to businesses that hire veterans, seniors, and residents from District 5. Each business is eligible to receive up to \$5,000 and must be located in an area of District 5 that does not already have a similar program. Stipends will be given after three months of employment. An additional \$500 stipend will be awarded to seniors and veterans who successfully maintain employment for the three-month period. WDD will assist in recruiting businesses and job seekers, as well as ensure job seekers are eligible to participate, issue all stipends and provide on-going support to both businesses and job seekers. The budget for Hire District 5 is broken down as follows:

Project Name	Budgeted Funding Amount
Hire District 5 Residents	\$333,000
Hire a Veteran	\$256,500
Hire a Senior	\$256,500
Total	\$846,000

The proposed Hire District 5 program was reviewed and determined to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), Common Sense, General Rule Exemption. The project relates to the provision of workforce services and employment and training activities for Riverside County adults and

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employers. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the aforementioned services may have a significant effect on the environment and will not lead to any direct or reasonable indirect physical environmental impacts, as they will have purely financial and administrative impacts.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

Approving the Hire District 5 program will serve a transformative role in aiding local businesses experiencing challenges of hiring and retaining qualified candidates. It is anticipated that this program will strengthen employment opportunities for veterans, seniors, and other residents who are largely underrepresented in today's workforce. Local businesses will gain the opportunities to address labor shortages while building a strong workforce. At the same time, residents in the service area will benefit as local businesses recover, ultimately experiencing a revitalized local economy.

Additional Fiscal Information

The full cost of this project is \$846,000. The funding source is strictly ARPA funds.


Brianna Lontajo, Principal Management Analyst

6/21/2023


Kristine Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel

6/14/2023