

# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

333 WEST OCEAN BOULEVARD • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802

January 11, 2005

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

**SUBJECT:** Resolution Designating the City of Long Beach as the Administering Agency and Signatory Authority for the New Opportunities for Work (NOW) Program and Authorization to Receive Grant Funds (Citywide)

## DISCUSSION

The Workforce Development Bureau (Bureau) responded in November 2004 to a State Demonstration Grant Solicitation for a Federal Wagner-Peyser 10 Percent Governor's Discretionary Fund Grant to augment workforce services to adult residents who face serious barriers to employment. The Solicitation focused on implementation of effective strategies for local communities to assist long-term unemployed residents residing in State Enterprise Zone areas. The State notified the City that as the highest scoring respondent, Long Beach was selected as the sole demonstration site for a grant award of \$230,539.

The Bureau partnered with the local Job Service of the State Employment Development Department (EDD), Long Beach Community College District, and AbilityFirst (formerly known as Community Rehabilitation Industries) to design the project. The Bureau will contract with EDD to provide case management and assist with intake services. The project is intended to work with 75 residents who are long-term unemployed, reside within the Long Beach Enterprise Zone, and face barriers that may include a disability, limited work experience history, basic skills deficiency, or a felony. Additionally, the project will target outreach primarily to residents in Police Beats 4, 5 and 7, in order to build on the efforts of the City's Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force and increase employment rates in these areas that experience higher unemployment and crime than the rest of the city.

Key components of the program include intensive case management, vocational assessment, supportive services, basic skills upgrades, career development workshops, short-term vocational training and follow-up services. The Bureau focused its vocational training element on demand occupations in the local automotive industry where short-term training is readily available through the community college system, where clear career growth exists, and where several Long Beach businesses made specific commitments to hire the residents at the completion of training. This model will provide a clear framework for moving long-term unemployed residents to career paths with good wages and opportunity to become self-sufficient, while addressing the unmet needs of local employers.

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This letter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Everett L. Glenn on December 29, 2004, and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on December 30, 2004.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on January 11, 2005, to facilitate processing of the required documents.

FISCAL IMPACT

Sufficient funding to support this program is budgeted in the Community Development Grants Fund (SR 150) in the Department of Community Development (CD). The General Fund will be used to pay for expenditures prior to reimbursement by this grant. As with most Federal grants, as fiscal agent, the City's General Fund would be responsible for ineligible expenses should another eligible funding source not be available.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

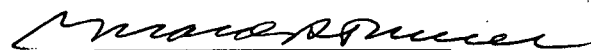
1. Adopt the attached resolution designating the City of Long Beach as the Administering Agency and Signatory Authority for the New Opportunities for Work Program; and
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to receive Wagner-Peyser funds from the State Employment Development Department totaling \$230,539 for the period of January 24, 2005 through June 30, 2005; and
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with the local Job Service Division of the Employment Development Department to provide case management and intake assistance in an amount up to \$40,000 for the period of January 24, 2005 through June 30, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



*MSF* MELANIE S. FALLON  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER