



Council Meeting: April 8, 2008

SUBJECT: Authorization to Award Contract in the Amount of \$460,000 to Vietnam Veterans of California for Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Program

REPORT IN BRIEF

In December 2007 Council authorized NOVA to submit a proposal to the California Employment Development Department for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Program (VEAP) funds to assist in integrating local veterans into meaningful employment. The grant was proposed to be administered by NOVA, with services provided by the Vietnam Veterans of California. NOVA was recently notified that it has been selected for a grant award. Staff recommends that the Sunnyvale City Council, on behalf of the seven-city NOVA Consortium, authorize a subcontract to Vietnam Veterans of California in the amount of \$460,000 for services related to the Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Program.

BACKGROUND

In October 2007, the California Employment Development Department issued a solicitation for proposals for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Program (VEAP) funds. The focus of this program is to transition veterans into meaningful employment in high-wage, high-growth occupations, with a focus on serving recently separated veterans (those separated in the last 48 months). On December 11, 2007 Council authorized NOVA staff to submit a proposal for VEAP funds in the amount of \$500,000 (RTC 07-406). NOVA was recently notified that it was selected for an award in the full amount requested.

EXISTING POLICY

The proposed activities are consistent with the City of Sunnyvale's Socio-Economic Goal 5.1F: Provide job training and employment services within constraints of operative, federal regulations and available federal funding, to address the locally-determined employment and training needs of economically disadvantaged residents and others with special needs.

DISCUSSION

NOVA has supported local funding for veterans employment and training on an uninterrupted basis since 1988 through the Job Training Partnership Act, Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program funding from the Department of Labor, and since February 2005, through WIA VEAP funds.

NOVA has a well-developed and unique partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and a community-based veteran services agency, Next Step Center, located on the grounds of the VA Palo Alto Menlo Park Health Care System. Next Step's administrative and fiscal agent is the Vietnam Veterans of California.

NOVA's proposal was written with the Next Step Center as the service provider partner. Next Step has operated veterans programs for NOVA since 1988 and is well prepared to address the unmet needs of veterans who have significant barriers to employment and those at risk to becoming chronically unemployed within the Santa Clara and San Mateo counties service area. They will provide employment and training services, supportive services, placement and follow-up through a case management approach and through linkages with the one-stop system and other public and private organizations.

Special tactics will be employed to outreach to and recruit recently separated veterans. Half of the 250 veterans to be served will be recently separated and usually meeting WIA dislocated worker eligibility, and half will have significant barriers to employment. The ultimate objective of the services provided is to place each eligible veteran into meaningful, gainful employment in high wage, high growth occupations.

The subcontract to Vietnam Veterans of California will be in the amount of \$460,000. The remaining \$40,000 from the \$500,000 grant is for NOVA's administration and oversight of the project.

FISCAL IMPACT

The source of funds for this project is Workforce Investment Act funding targeted for veterans. These funds were awarded to NOVA and the City of Sunnyvale through a competitive application process. As such there is sufficient funding to accomplish the required work, and the funding cannot be used for any purposes not in the original proposal. There is no negative fiscal impact on the City of Sunnyvale.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made through posting of the Council agenda on the City's official notice bulletin board and at the Senior Center and Community Center, posting of the agenda and report on the City's Web site, publication of the Council agenda in the *San Jose Mercury News*, and the availability of the report in the Library and the Office of the City Clerk. Copies of this report were also shared with each of the City's Boards and Commissions.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council authorizes the award of a contract in the amount of \$460,000 to Vietnam Veterans of California to provide services for the Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Program.
2. Council does not authorize the contract award.
3. Other action as determined by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by staff that the Sunnyvale City Council, on behalf of the NOVA seven-city consortium, adopt Alternative 1: Council authorizes the award of a contract in the amount of \$460,000 to Vietnam Veterans of California to provide services for the Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Program.

Reviewed by:

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