

**Council Meeting: June 3, 2008**

SUBJECT: Authorization for NOVA to Submit Application for Funding for Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project in the Amount of \$300,000

REPORT IN BRIEF

The U. S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service has announced that funding is available to continue the provision of employment and training services to homeless veterans through the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP). NOVA operated an HVRP project from 1988 through 2007. Staff recommends that the Sunnyvale City Council, on behalf of the NOVA seven-city consortium, concur with the NOVA Workforce Board and authorize the submission of an application to the U. S. Department of Labor in the amount of \$300,000 to provide services to homeless veterans from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

BACKGROUND

Beginning in September 1988, NOVA operated a Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) funded through the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. The Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001 requires the Secretary of Labor to conduct such programs as determined appropriate to expedite the reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force. HVRP grants are intended to address two objectives: (1) To provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment, and (2) to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans. The Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training has made available up to \$3.5 million to award grants for HVRPs in selected urban and non-urban areas for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Two optional years of additional funding are potentially available, depending on Congressional funding appropriations and satisfactory grantee performance. NOVA received a grant for \$275,000 in 2004 and received second- and third-year funding in 2005 and 2006. For 2008-09, the maximum grant amount for urban applications is \$300,000.

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's HVRP completed its 19th successful program year on June 30, 2007. Since November of 1999, Vietnam Veterans of California has acted as subcontractor for the project, with services provided by the Next Step Center, located at the Veterans Administration medical center in Menlo Park.

For the grant which ended June 30, 2007, NOVA's HVRP enrolled 323 new participants (vs. 280 planned) and 93 carryovers and provided counseling and vocational guidance, classroom training, computer literacy training, job search and placement services, and a multitude of supportive services such as substance abuse programs, medical and mental health assistance, housing assistance, clothing, tools, and post-placement follow up. The program placed 180 veterans (200 planned) with an average wage at placement of \$13.21 per hour. Significantly, 83% of those placed retained employment for 90 days (114% of goal), and 60% retained employment for 180 days (120% of goal).

Should the application for funding be approved, NOVA intends to continue operating the project through a subcontractor (except for \$24,000 reserved for NOVA's administrative costs), which will be selected through a competitive procurement process.

At its May 28, 2008 meeting, the NOVA Workforce Board approved the submission of an application for HVRP funding for \$300,000.

FISCAL IMPACT

The source of funds for this project is grant funding targeted for services to homeless veterans. These funds would be 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.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council authorizes the submission of an application to the U. S. Department of Labor in the amount of \$300,000 to provide services to homeless veterans from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.
2. Council does not authorize submission of the application.
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 and in concurrence with the NOVA Workforce Board, adopt Alternative 1: Council authorizes the submission of an application to the U. S. Department of Labor in the amount of \$300,000 to provide services to homeless veterans from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Reviewed by:

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Approved by:

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