

**Council Meeting: October 28, 2008****SUBJECT: Approval of NOVA Local Workforce Investment Area Five-Year Strategic Local Plan Modification for Program Year 2008-09****REPORT IN BRIEF**

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) policies require that the local Workforce Investment Board submit a Five-Year Plan to the Governor for its WIA allocated funds. The purpose of the Plan is to describe the local area's one-stop approach to workforce development programs that respond to the employment needs of its many customers, including current workers, unemployed workers, dislocated workers, new entrants to the labor force, youth, veterans and employers. NOVA's Plan reflects an employment and training system based on informed customer choice and performance accountability. The Plan was originally effective from July 1, 2000-June 30, 2005, and has been modified annually for each year since the initial term.

In 2008-09, the plan modification consists primarily of new budget and participant plans for the allocated funding. Staff recommends that the Sunnyvale City Council, on behalf of the NOVA seven-city consortium, concur with the NOVA Workforce Board and approve the plan modification for program year 2008-09.

BACKGROUND

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was enacted in 1998, providing sweeping changes in workforce development and training. The change transitioned the Job Training Partnership Act into the new WIA legislation beginning in July 2000. The State of California, under the direction of the Governor, developed a five-year plan for the new legislation, and required each Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA) to submit a five-year plan in conjunction with that of the State.

NOVA's five-year plan explains the partnerships developed under the CONNECT! One-Stop system, providing one source for service. NOVA and the Employment Development Department serve as the major partners in the CONNECT! partnership. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) guides all of the partners, which now total 35 agencies. An MOU is one of the major requirements in the plan.

The plan also illustrates the diversity of services available to individuals and businesses, and is updated each year to reflect local economic conditions and any significant strategic changes. The original LWIA Five-Year Strategic Plan (RTC 00-094, March 28, 2000) expired on June 30, 2005. For each program year since that date, pending WIA reauthorization legislation, the State has allowed a one-year extension to the existing plans. The plan for PY 2007-08 was approved by Council on September 25, 2007 (RTC 07-317). This current modification will extend the plan to June 30, 2009.

The plan was released for public comments, which were due October 20, 2008. None were received. The full plan is available for review on NOVA's Web site, at http://www.novaworks.org/about_nova/default.html.

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

The primary focus of the program year (PY) 08-09 modification to the five-year plan (originally effective July 2000) is updated budget and participant plans for the use of the PY 2008-09 allocated funds. The charts below summarize the updated plans.

In terms of funding for PY 08-09, NOVA's Adult, Dislocated Workers, and Youth allocations have increased by a total of 5%, following an 11% decrease in PY 07-08 and a 17% decrease in PY 06-07.

The following chart shows NOVA's PY 08-09 new allocations, compared with PY 07-08 allocations (after rescissions):

Grant	PY 08-09 Allocated Funds	PY 07-08 Allocated Funds	Variance	PY 07-08 Carry Over
Adult Allocation	\$822,257	\$765,630	+7.4%	\$134,604
Dislocated Workers Allocation	\$1,086,439	\$1,048,621	+3.6%	\$121,840
Youth Allocation	\$798,535	\$768,162	+4.0%	\$37,790
TOTALS	\$2,707,231	\$2,582,413	+4.8%	\$294,234

NOVA is participating in a project with the state to pilot a new service strategy. One of the goals of this new model is to count all individuals receiving services. Therefore, NOVA has begun enrolling individuals into grants who previously would have been served under “universal” services and not counted as enrollments. For this reason NOVA’s carryover participants from the last months of PY 07–08 (when the new model began) and planned new enrollments for PY 08–09 are significantly higher than those of PY 07–08:

Enrollments	Adult		Dislocated Workers		Youth	
	08-09	07-08	08-09	07-08	08-09	07-08
Participants Carried In	315	83	545	455	108	75
New Participants	736	118	736	245	65	114
Total Participants	1,051	201	1,281	700	189	189

The only other change being made this year to the Five-Year Plan is a description of how NOVA’s youth service model is changing due to the state’s replacement of the Workforce Investment Act statutory performance measures with the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration common performance measures (see attached description).

The NOVA Workforce Board has approved the modification of the NOVA Local Workforce Investment Area Five-Year Strategic Local Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT

The source of funds for the services in the Five-Year Strategic Local Plan is Workforce Investment Act funds. These funds are allocated to NOVA and the City of Sunnyvale by the State of California on an annual basis. As such there is sufficient funding to accomplish the required work, and the funding cannot be used for any purposes not in the Plan. 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 approves the NOVA Local Workforce Investment Area Five-Year Strategic Local Plan Modification for Program Year 2008-09.
2. Council does not approve the Plan modification.
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 approves the NOVA Local Workforce Investment Area Five-Year Strategic Local Plan Modification for Program Year 2008-09.

Reviewed by:

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Prepared by: Jeanette Langdell, Employment Training Manager

Approved by:

Amy Chan
City Manager

Attachment I: Description of Changes to NOVA Youth Service Model

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Description of Changes to NOVA Youth Service Model

We have spent a significant amount of time adjusting services and strategies to be in compliance with the new measures and to assure that we are on track with program goals. The three Common Measures that the program is responsible for include: Placement in Employment or Education, Attainment of a Degree or Certificate, and Literacy and Numeracy Gains. Our initial response in meeting common performance measures has included re-establishing the 7-week Summer Youth Employment Program. The program provides in-school youth with assigned work experience sites, workshops and technical training to develop their job skills for future employment, while reinforcing the importance of completing high school and creating a gateway to college enrollment in the Fall.

The focus on increasing participants' literacy and numeracy skills is the most significant change impacting our program. NOVA staff has become certified in CASAS Life Skills administration, and we are working to capitalize on our partnerships with educational programs to address skill deficits.