

**Council Meeting: February 9, 2010**

SUBJECT: Authorization to Award Contract in the Amount of \$675,000 to Vietnam Veterans of California for Veterans' Employment-Related Assistance Program

REPORT IN BRIEF

NOVA, also known as the City's Department of Employment Development, was recently notified that it has been selected for an award of Workforce Investment Act funding for the Veterans' Employment-Related Assistance Program. 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 \$675,000 for services related to the Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Program.

BACKGROUND

In September 2008, 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, using their skill sets obtained in the military. On November 25, 2008 Council authorized NOVA staff to submit a proposal for VEAP funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 (RTC 08-346). Due to limited dollars available, NOVA was not funded in the initial round of awards. However, the State of California recently made American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding available for VEAP. NOVA was notified that it was selected for an award in the amount of \$750,000. The grant will operate through June 30, 2011.

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 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 of becoming chronically unemployed within the Santa Clara and San Mateo counties service area. They will provide employment and training services, supportive services, and placement and follow-up through a case management approach and through linkages with the one-stop system and other public and private organizations.

All 200 veterans served by this grant will be unemployed or underemployed and have multiple barriers to meaningful employment. These barriers include but are not limited to substance abuse, chronic psychiatric problems, disabilities, criminal convictions and poor work history. Although veterans have been highly trained while in service, many lack competitive occupational skills, and the grant will fund training for 160 participants. The ultimate objective of the services provided is to place each eligible veteran into meaningful, gainful employment in a high wage, high growth occupation.

The subcontract to Vietnam Veterans of California will be in the amount of \$675,000. The remaining \$75,000 from the \$750,000 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 by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, at the Sunnyvale Senior Center, Community Center and Department of Public Safety; and by making the

agenda and report available at the Sunnyvale Public Library, the Office of the City Clerk and on the City's Web site.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council authorizes the award of a contract in the amount of \$675,000 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 \$675,000 to Vietnam Veterans of California to provide services for the Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Program.

Reviewed by:

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Approved by:

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