



**Council Meeting: June 28, 2011**

**SUBJECT: Authorization to Award Contract in the Amount of \$418,500 to Vietnam Veterans of California for Veterans' Employment-Related Assistance Program**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

NOVA, also known as the City's NOVA Workforce Services Department, 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 \$418,500 for services related to the Veterans' Employment-Related Assistance Program.

**BACKGROUND**

In March 2011, the California Employment Development Department issued a solicitation for proposals for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Veterans' Employment-Related Assistance Program (VEAP). The focus of this program is to transition veterans into meaningful employment in high-wage, high-growth occupations. NOVA applied for funding and was recently notified that it was selected for an award in the amount of \$465,000. The grant will operate through March 31, 2013.

**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 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.

Over 100 veterans will be served during the grant term of July 1, 2011 through March 31, 2013. About half will be recently separated veterans, and the remainder will be veterans with multiple barriers to meaningful employment. In San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, veterans experience higher unemployment rates than the general population, with young veterans especially impacted. This may be due in part to the fact that 24 percent of local veterans have a disability, compared to 9 percent of the general population.

Veterans face many barriers to employment, including but not limited to disabilities including traumatic brain injury, substance abuse, chronic psychiatric problems including post-traumatic stress disorder, criminal convictions, lack of support networks and poor work history. Although veterans have been highly trained while in service, many lack competitive occupational skills, and the grant will fund career training for at least 60 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 \$418,500. The remaining \$46,500 from the \$465,000 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 \$418,500 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 \$418,500 to Vietnam Veterans of California to provide services for the Veterans' Employment-Related Assistance Program.

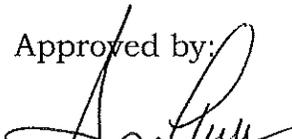
Reviewed by:



Kris Stadelman, Director, NOVA Workforce Services

Prepared by: Jeanette Langdell, Employment Training Manager

Approved by:



Gary M. Luabbers  
City Manager