



CITY COUNCIL

Darryl Moore
Councilmember District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR

May 8, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Darryl Moore
Mayor Tom Bates
Councilmember Max Anderson

Subject: Full Youth Employment for YouthWorks Summer 2008 and 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

Request the City Manager to develop a proposal and cost estimate for FY 2008 & 2009 Biennial Budget process for full youth employment by expanding the City of Berkeley Youth Employment Program (YouthWorks) capacity to accept all eligible applicants.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS:

The City of Berkeley has historically provided funding for youth employment activities, historically in conjunction with external funds such as Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and Workforce Investment Act (WIA). As a result of budget reductions in recent years, including the completion of the WIA three-year federal grant in 2004, fewer youth are served through the YouthWorks program. Rather than accept permanent reduction of youth served through on-the-job training and work experience, we recommended that the City add to current program funding. This will support citywide efforts to provide positive and meaningful youth-focused activities, which address youth unemployment, crime and poverty.

There are several other youth employment development programs throughout the City. In order to fully maximize our resources, the YouthWorks program should collaborate to the greatest extent possible with these other programs in terms of business development and outreach. One mechanism that might be explored is that One-Stop Collaborative, which includes the major workforce development programs in the area.

Full Youth Employment for YouthWorks Summer 2008 and 2009

BACKGROUND:

As described in the Staff Report to Council on March 27, 2007, YouthWorks currently provides subsidized employment for up to 120 youth in the summer and 100 youth during the school year. Youth are placed in jobs with various City departments, AC Transit, local businesses and community-based organizations including Berkeley Biotech Inc. They receive orientation to world-of-work activities, hands-on training at the worksites, and up to ten weeks of paid work experience (\$7.50 per hour, up to 30 hours per week) in the summer component. Each youth worker receives an evaluation provided by worksite supervisors, and a Youth Services Advisor provides on-going support to the youth worker and worksites through the end of the ten-week term of employment.

Up to six older youth (18–25 years of age) at any given time will work on weekend graffiti abatement throughout the year, supervised by the Public Works Clean City Program and subsidized entirely by the Department of Public Works.

YouthWorks also collaborates with the University of California (UC) Berkeley for summer jobs, which are paid directly by UC. Each UC department that hires youth provides funding for the youth wages. Last summer, 22 youth were placed in jobs throughout the Berkeley campus, and efforts are on going to increase departmental participation in this component of the summer program.

Other youth employment opportunities currently occur in the Department of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront with approximately 70 youth hired each summer, and the Department of Health and Human Services with approximately 30-40 high school youth and 5-10 older youth (18-25 years old) hired for peer education and outreach on a seasonal basis. The budgets for these positions reside in their respective departments. Historically, the applicant pool for these summer and seasonal positions has not been exclusive to Berkeley residents, in part due to external funding requirements. YouthWorks hires only Berkeley residents.

Additionally, YouthWorks also provides job placement in the private sector for more long-term employment opportunities. So far this year, 22 youth have been placed in jobs with private businesses in non-subsidized employment. This component requires staff time for screening of candidates, maintaining a pool of candidates, and networking with and nurturing business relationships.

The list below describes current youth employment in the City of Berkeley:

Youth Works	
Summer (including AC Transit)	126
After school (also called year-round)	100
UC Berkeley summer program	22
Graffiti	6
Bio-tech	3
Private sector employment	22
Other City departments (approximate)	110
Total	389

Full Youth Employment for YouthWorks Summer 2008 and 2009

With the Council’s mid-year budget decision to expand YouthWorks by 50 additional jobs, the program is expected to serve approximately 180 youth, plus those provided by the UC Berkeley. With 350 applications submitted, there is a shortfall of approximately 150 to 170 youth placements. Business/job recruitment, youth readiness & development, placement & case management and fund development are necessary components in order to have a sustainable program that is focused on youth development. To fulfill the City’s commitment to “support[ing] citywide efforts to provide positive and meaningful youth-focused activities, which address youth unemployment, crime and poverty” it is recommended that through the FY 2008 & FY 2009 Biennial Budget process, the City allocate funds to youth employment programs so that we can place all eligible youth applicants in appropriate placements through YouthWorks.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

To be determined.

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