

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

99-431

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

To authorize the Mayor to provide Central Iowa Employment and Training Consortium (CIETC) with a letter of support for their Youth Opportunity Grant to the Department of Labor.

SUBJECT:

FISCAL IMPACT -

LETTER OF
SUPPORT FOR
CIETC YOUTH
OPPORTUNITY
GRANT

None.

RECOMMENDATION -

Authorization to provide a letter of support for CIETC Youth Opportunity Grant proposal.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

BACKGROUND -

CIETC and other collaborating Enterprise Community (EC) agencies will be applying to the Department of Labor for the Youth Opportunity Grant.

SUBMITTED BY:

JAMES GRANT
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

The Youth Opportunity Grants authorized under Section 169 of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 significantly increases resources available for serving youth growing up in high-poverty urban and rural areas. The WIA specifies that Youth Opportunity Grants are to be used "to increase the long-term employment of youth that live in empowerment zones, enterprise communities and high-poverty areas."

The grant requires a combination of efforts to help currently idle youth find jobs, return to school, enroll in vocational training or post-secondary education, or enter the military. Private sector jobs will help youth find and keep employment. The grantees can also use funds for vocational training, remedial education, work experience, youth conservation, and

on-the-job training, college-bound efforts and youth development activities.

The Department of Labor will award approximately 25 to 30 grants. The grants will serve youth between the ages of 14 to 21, both in school and out of school and who live in the EC community. According to the Request for Proposal (RFP) criteria, it is estimated that the grant funding levels will be up to \$5 million for an initial period of one year. Based on satisfactory progress toward achieving the goals, the grant can be extended to a third and fourth year and will be reduced to 75 percent of the initial grant amount. If the grant is extended to the fifth year, the grant amount will be reduced to 50 percent of the initial amount. The total amount of the grant that CIETC will be applying for is approximately \$4,185,000. The grant will also include three additional census tracts, two from the eastside of Des Moines and the third being Oakridge neighborhood.

The applicant must be a Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB). The community that will receive the grant must be designated an EC. The grant also states the applicant must discuss the role of the Enterprise Zone/Enterprise Community board and various other entities such as the police department, parks department, school district, community college, state agencies, and faith-based organizations in the project.

CIETC has come to the Enterprise Community Steering Committee (ECSC) to request their support on this grant proposal to the Department of Labor. The ECSC is made up of several members of organizations that will be collaborating on the grant proposal, therefore presenting a conflict of interest for some of the members.

The ECSC recommended that the Economic Workgroup review the proposed project and a call vote was conducted to poll those members of the ECSC that were eligible to vote.

The results of the phone poll vote was to recommend to City Council to send a letter of endorsement to CIETC in support of their Youth Opportunity Grant proposal.

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