

MEMORANDUM

TO: Workforce Development Board Executive Committee

FROM: Christopher Donnelly

SUBJECT: Approval to Accept CaliforniansForAll Grant

DATE: June 12, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) Executive Committee approves accepting a \$1,998,840 grant from California Volunteers, Office of the Governor, Youth Service Corps (CaliforniansForAll) to provide the Green Cadre program in Monterey County to serve a total of 90 young adults for an 18-month period.

BACKGROUND:

The CaliforniansForAll Youth Workforce Development program is a Governor's initiative administered by California Volunteers in partnership with cities and counties across California. In 2022, the CaliforniansForAll program awarded the MCWDB a \$2.8 million dollar grant to fund up to 147 youth in the Green Cadre program. The original purpose of this initiative was to increase youth employment, develop youth interest in and experience towards a career, in the public sector and to strengthen California's capacity to address key areas of climate and food insecurity. The Green Cadre program also provided youth participants with an opportunity to give back to their communities through weekly community services projects working with a number of non-profits and other community-based organizations (CBOs).

In December 2024, the Governor's office announced a new opportunity for counties and cities to apply for another round of funding. MCWDB received approval in January 2025 to apply for this funding.

DISCUSSION:

In June 2025, MCWDB was notified that it had secured a grant of \$1,998,840 to service a total of 90 participants over an 18-month period in the Green Cadre program. MCWDB is requesting approval to accept grant funding from CaliforniansForAll grant to continue its efforts to address the climate and food insecurity challenges facing Monterey County while assisting our program participants to learn key skills and earn money through job training, work experience, and placements into employment. MCWDB expects to provide two or three Green Cadre cohorts during 2025-26, with an additional one or two cohorts in 2026-27. Turning Point and Equus Youth programs will be providing the day-to-day supervision and case management for the Green Cadre program, working with the State Parks, the City of Monterey, and the Monterey County Food Bank, in addition to other current and future CBO and non-profit partners.

NEXT STEPS:

If the Executive Committee approves staff accepting the CaliforniansForAll grant, the recommendation to accept the funding will be forwarded for consideration by the full board at its meeting of June 18, 2025.