



MEMORANDUM

TO: Workforce Development Board

FROM: Christopher Donnelly

SUBJECT: Approval to Extend Equus Adult and Dislocated Worker Agreement

DATE: June 25, 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Workforce Development Board concurs with the Executive Committee's June 24, 2026, approval to extend the existing agreement with Arbor E&T, dba Equus Workforce Solutions, to provide WIOA Title 1 Adult and Dislocated Worker case management services within the local workforce development area from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$1,300,000, with \$900,000 provided to serve 337 Adults and \$400,000 to serve 75 Dislocated Workers.

BACKGROUND:

Following a Request for Proposal (RFP) process in early 2023, Equus was approved to provide training and employment services to Adults and Dislocated Workers in Monterey County from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, with case management funding in the amount of \$2,050,000 to serve 375 Adults and 125 Dislocated Workers. In July 2024, the Board-approved allocation for Adult and Dislocated Worker case management was decreased to \$1,900,000 to serve 425 Adults and 75 Dislocated Workers in 2024-25. The 2025-26 allocation was further decreased to \$1,300,000 to serve 293 Adults and 75 Dislocated Workers.

Last year, in coordination with Monterey County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) Youth program case managers, Equus staff collaborated with Adult and Dislocated Worker participants to support their preparation for Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training. Working closely with the MCWDB's designated Management Analyst, Equus also supported Adult and Dislocated Worker participants enrolled in Community Health Worker (CHW) training. In addition, Equus staff also provided case management services to support MCWDB's Prison to Employment 2.0 program, assisting justice-involved individuals to find training and employment. Finally, Equus enrolled and worked with participants in MCWDB's regional pre-apprenticeship program, which provides 350 hours of hands-on training, including the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3).

DISCUSSION:

For the coming program year, Equus will prioritize compliance with SB 734 training expenditure requirements by expanding employer engagement efforts to increase Transitional Jobs (TJ) and On-the-Job Training (OJT) opportunities. A key focus will be the continued implementation and refinement of the redesigned Adult and Dislocated Worker Service Delivery Model to improve participant engagement, service effectiveness, and employment outcomes. MCWDB expects Equus to enhance services through targeted in-person workshops and virtual training opportunities aligned with MCWDB's priority industry

sectors and high-demand occupations. Additionally, Equus is expected to strengthen partnerships with employers to expand direct placement opportunities in MCWDB's priority sectors.

Staff recommends executing an amendment with Equus for Adult and Dislocated Worker services in 2026-27 to serve a total of 412 individuals (337 Adults and 75 Dislocated Workers), with \$900,000 allocated to the Adult program and \$400,000 for Dislocated Worker. MCWDB expects to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Adult and Dislocated Worker services in January 2027 with an anticipated contract start date of July 1, 2027.

It should also be noted that on April 23, 2026, MCWDB authorized the transfer of \$900,000 of Dislocated Worker funding to the Adult program based on continuing to see lower numbers of Dislocated Workers.

NEXT STEPS:

If the recommendation to extend the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker services agreement with Equus is approved by the MCWDB, staff will execute an amendment to the existing agreement with Equus.