

MEMORANDUM

TO: Workforce Development Board Executive Committee

FROM: Christopher Donnelly

SUBJECT: Approval to Extend Equus Adult and Dislocated Worker Agreement

DATE: June 12, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Executive Committee approves extending 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, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$1,300,000, with \$900,000 provided to serve 293 Adults and \$400,000 to serve 75 Dislocated Workers.

BACKGROUND:

Following an Request for Proposal (RFP) process in early 2023, Equus was approved to provide 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

During 2024-25, Equus supervised the 2023 Severe Winter Storms National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG), which involved collaboration with State Parks employees to carry out site-specific missions aimed at the clean-up and beautification of storm-affected areas across Monterey County, including Big Sur, Point Lobos, and Asilomar. The NDWG ends on June 30, 2025. Additionally, in coordination with Monterey County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) Youth program case managers, Equus staff also worked with Adult and Dislocated Worker participants to prepare them for Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training. Working closely with the MCWDB's Management Analyst, Equus also supported Adult and Dislocated Worker participants in Community Health Worker (CHW) training. 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).

In 2024-25, the Monterey County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) provided \$1,000,000 to serve 425 Adults and \$900,000 for 75 Dislocated Workers; therefore, relative to Equus' 2024-25 funding levels, the funding for 2025-26 represents a decrease of \$100,000 (10%) to the Adult program and \$500,000 (55%) to the Dislocated Worker program. It should be noted that participant numbers to be served in 2025-26 were reduced to correspond with the new funding amounts for both programs.

DISCUSSION:

For the coming fiscal year, Equus will need to focus on meeting the SB 734 training expenditure requirements by providing increased outreach to businesses to source additional transitional job and on-the-job training opportunities. MCWDB expects Equus to increase the level and quality of its services to participants generally, and specifically by providing in-person workshops and online trainings for priority