

City of Alexandria, Virginia

14
6-11-02

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 30, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER ^{PS}

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF GRANT AWARD FROM THE VIRGINIA EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION FOR SERVICES TO WORKERS IMPACTED BY THE PENTAGON ATTACK OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant award in the amount of \$1,974,774 from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) for workers impacted by the September 11, 2001 attack on the Pentagon.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) approve the grant award in the amount of \$1,974,774 for services for workers impacted by the September 11, 2001 attack on the Pentagon;
- (2) approve the establishment of eight full-time, grant-funded positions, (one Employment Training Supervisor, five Employment Training Specialists, one Management Analyst I and one Account Clerk III) and the conversion of one currently-authorized 0.75 FTE Employment Training Specialist position to full-time to operate the program. The positions will terminate upon expiration of the grant and the individuals who fill the positions will be notified of this condition of employment and will sign an agreement of understanding with regard to this condition; and
- (3) authorize the City Manager to execute all documents as may be required.

BACKGROUND: The September 11, 2001 attack on the Pentagon and the subsequent closure of Ronald Reagan National Airport resulted in major job losses in the northern Virginia region. The job losses caused a dramatic downturn in the local economy. In response to this, the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), at the request of the Alexandria/Arlington Workforce Investment Board and the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board, a consortium of seven jurisdictions, submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Labor for a National Emergency Grant. The purpose is to provide re-employment and related services to those individuals laid off or working substantially reduced hours as a result of the Pentagon attack or the closing or reduction of services and businesses at Ronald Reagan National Airport.

DISCUSSION: The September 11 attack on the Pentagon and subsequent closure of Ronald Reagan National Airport resulted in the loss of 16,500 direct and associated jobs. For every laid-off airport employee, 3.5 other jobs in businesses related to the airport were also affected. Funding from the grant will allow *JobLink* to provide intensive specialized services to 1,250 individuals to assist them in re-entering the workforce. To date, 585 individuals have been assessed or are awaiting assessment for eligibility under this grant.

The Employment Training Supervisor will coordinate the delivery of worker adjustment services such as: skills assessments for transferable skills, job search assistance, supportive services, needs-based payments, career counseling, management of job transition, skills training, financial counseling and planning, stress management, and access to employment resources such as computers, telephones, and fax machines. Five Employment Training Specialists will provide the individualized case management services required to insure client success. Program administrative support will be provided through the Account Clerk and Management Analyst positions. The majority of the grant (\$1.064 million) will be spent on employment training.

The proposed duration of the grant is October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2003, with the potential for a 1-year extension. During the period from October 1, 2001 to now, when contract negotiations were being finalized between the VEC, the Alexandria/Arlington Workforce Investment Board, and the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board, training and responsive services have been provided for clients in need via overtime of existing staff and recently hired temporary employees.

FISCAL IMPACT: In late February 2002, the Department of Labor obligated \$10 million to the VEC for this grant, of which \$9.8 million has been allocated to the five Workforce Investment Boards across the Commonwealth to provide services to affected workers. \$4,156,654 has been allocated to the Alexandria/Arlington Workforce Investment Board, with Arlington County receiving \$2,181,880 and Alexandria \$1,974,774.

\$1,974,774 will be received from the VEC. Although there is no requirement for the City to provide a cash match or an in-kind match for these funds, the City is responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant. These costs include financial and reporting oversight provided by the Arlington County Department of Human Services, as well as by the Office of Management and Budget and the Finance Department. There are no monies available in the City budget to continue this program once the grant funds are expended and persons hired will be notified of this condition of employment.

ATTACHMENTS: None.

STAFF:

Joe Stevens, Director, Office of Employment Training
Dennis McKinney, Division Director, *JobLink*
Meg O'Regan, Director, Department of Human Services
Gene Swearingen, Director of Management and Budget