


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 19, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF AN ALLOCATION FROM THE VIRGINIA EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AND THEIR SPOUSES AFFECTED BY BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC)

ISSUE: Allocation of federal funds to provide employment and training services to dislocated workers and their spouses affected by the military realignments and base closures in the City.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the acceptance of the allocation in the amount of \$241,876 for intensive employment and training services for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)-impacted workers;
- (2) Authorize the establishment of up to two full-time temporary-funded positions, Workforce Development Specialists, with the Department of Human Services/*JobLink* to provide employment training services and manage the transition of civilian employees of the military to other career opportunities in the community. These positions will terminate upon the expiration of the allocation and the persons who fill this position will be notified that this is a condition of their employment; and
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The report of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission for 2005 was approved by the President in September 2005 and became effective in November 2005. The BRAC report detailed the list of military bases and offices that would be closed or moved to other locations. An estimated 24,000 workers in the Alexandria/Arlington Workforce Investment Area are impacted by the BRAC report with 17,000 (71%) in Arlington County and 7,000 (29%) in the City of Alexandria.

Subsequently, \$29 million in National Emergency Grant (NEG) funds has been awarded by the U. S. Department of Labor to 37 states, the District of Columbia and Guam for the planning and implementation of the response to these anticipated closures and realignment activities. The allocation of the \$29 million for the implementation stage of the NEG funding was temporarily withheld by the federal government as the military resolved logistical decisions regarding

various base closures. Eventually the funds were allocated to the State, and then the Virginia Employment Commission allocated \$1,373,000 to the Alexandria/Arlington Workforce Investment Area. In May, Alexandria *JobLink* staff and Arlington staff negotiated and agreed upon a funding split between these two jurisdictions.

Arlington County will use their \$1,131,370 portion of their allocation primarily to staff the BRAC Transition Center in Crystal City. Alexandria's portion of this allocation is \$241,876 and will support up to two Workforce Development Specialists with *JobLink* including \$117,800 for operating costs to provide employment and training services to workers. Through Alexandria's *JobLink*, a "One Stop" Career Center, the Workforce Development Specialists will provide career assessments, job counseling, job preparation, and job placement services for workers impacted by the BRAC closures. Services include computers with Internet access, job vacancy listings, telephones, fax machines, copiers, resource materials on local and national labor market trends, adaptive equipment for clients with disabilities, and access to skill training programs.

The allocation requires coordination of workforce development, economic development and education through regional collaboration and *JobLink* will coordinate employment and training activities with the BRAC Transition Center in Arlington County, as well as with AEDP.

FISCAL IMPACT: 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 award. These costs include financial and reporting oversight provided by the Department of Human Services, as well as by the Office of Management and Budget and the Finance Department. Currently, any un-expended funds at the end of the grant period will revert back to the U. S. Department of Labor. The funded positions will terminate upon the expiration of the allocation, and the individuals who fill this position will be notified that this is a condition of employment.

STAFF:

Debra R. Collins, Assistant City Manager for Community and Human Services
Dennis Mckinney, Director of *JobLink*, Human Services