

ITEM V.C. – ACTION / PUBLIC HEARING

**USE OF UNOBLIGATED WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT
YOUTH FORMULA FUNDS**

YOUTH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Alameda County Workforce Development Board (ACWDB):

1. Authorize staff to explore, develop, and advance various youth workforce development strategies utilizing unobligated Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth and Young Adult funds; and
2. Approve staff to issue the appropriate solicitation to implement WIOA Youth strategies and activities in accordance with federal and state program guidelines.

BACKGROUND:

During the September 11, 2025 ACWDB meeting, the Board approved a revision of funding recommendations for WIOA service providers for program year 2025/2026. In light of continued uncertainty at the federal budget level, staff recommended that only approximately fifty percent of this increase be released at this time. The remaining increase (unobligated funding) is available due to two factors:

1. A portion of the funds were intentionally held in reserve to allow for innovation and to mitigate risk given current political and budgetary uncertainty; and
2. Funding from the Youth Service Providers who declined the increase due to higher performance targets for the current program year.

As a result, approximately \$601,102 in unobligated funds remain available to support Youth and Young Adult programs. Of this amount, a percentage will be held in reserve as a time-limited “rainy-day fund” in light of ongoing budgetary uncertainties. From the remaining fifty percent, staff may issue a solicitation based on identified program priorities and needs.

Through a review of recent federal guidance, executive summaries, and labor market data, staff have identified strategies to leverage these funds to provide youth with career exposure opportunities and to achieve contract performance goals, including enrollments, training expenditures, and employment outcomes.

To address identified needs and expand resources for youth, staff recommend allocating the available unobligated funds to increase Work Experience (WEX) opportunities. Potential uses of these funds may include:

1. Summer youth employment opportunities;
2. Digital literacy training, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) related skills;
3. Pre-apprenticeship for WEX specific opportunities; and,
4. Strategies to enhance WIOA Youth performance outcomes.

If any solicitations are issued, staff will return to the YC with recommendations for the selection of each service provider.

YC DISCUSSION:

The YC unanimously approved the recommendations.

For further information you may contact Ayana Cruz, Youth Program Specialist, by phone at 510-780-8861 or through email at ayana.cruz@acgov.org.