

For Immediate Release: Monday, December 5, 2016

Press Contact: Gloria Chan (415) 554-6926, Gloria.chan@sfgov.org

****PRESS RELEASE****

**THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES
\$45 MILLION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES AND
WORKFORCE TRAINING OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS**

Funding to support community based organizations for direct services especially in underserved communities

San Francisco, CA— The Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) announced Request for Proposals for the next three years to deliver employment services to jobseekers and employers in San Francisco. This \$45 million investment will continue funding local community based organizations to deliver critical workforce training and job placement services and programs in high-demand sectors that create career pathways and upward mobility for San Franciscans; especially in underserved communities.

“This funding advances the Mayor’s goal of shared prosperity for all San Franciscans,” said Todd Rufo, Director of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD). “We are working closely with our community partners to deploy vital workforce services and resources in underserved communities so that we continue to guide and support individuals toward a path of self- sufficiency.”

The funding leverages Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) dollars and Community Development Block Grant funds from the federal level with local funds to resources in a range of workforce development programs, targeting adults, youth and specific populations with barriers to employment. OEWD’s workforce programs offer services such as career assessment and coaching, job search assistance, job training in soft skills and vocational services, and transitional employment, as well as supportive services, and other resources to ensure job seekers successfully transition into the workforce. OEWD’s Workforce Programs that are funded include:

Sector Workforce Programs aimed at recruiting, training, and placing workers in high demand jobs with upward mobility in San Francisco’s most significant industries (construction, healthcare, hospitality/retail, and information & communications technology).

Access Point Services offer neighborhood-based workforce services and offer an entry-point into San Francisco’s comprehensive workforce system.

Specialized Access Points deliver customized employment services focused on specific target populations, including the re-entry population, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and other segments of the population that have specific workforce development needs as a result of their status in a protected group.

Job Readiness Services provide comprehensive and culturally competent barrier removal services to enable hard-to-employ populations to benefit from workforce services.

Subsidized Employment offers “earn while you learn” and applied work experience to support workers with little previous experience as they transition into full time employment.

Business Services engage and assist employers involved in San Francisco’s First Source Hiring Programs and others, to successfully connect with qualified jobseekers in San Francisco.

Pilot Program Opportunities recruit innovative programs that bolster existing, or initiate new program areas that will enhance the effectiveness of San Francisco’s workforce development system.

“By focusing on our core competency of targeting high-demand sectors with employer supported training modules, we ensure viable job opportunities for all of our residents while supporting the City’s ongoing economic vitality. The new federal priorities for sector-based training and career pathways validates the approach we’ve taken from the beginning. We’ve long been ahead of the curve,” said Michael Carr, Director of Workforce at the Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

OEWD is partnering with other City Departments including San Francisco’s Human Services Agency, and Department of Children, Youth, and their Families, that offer funding targeted to programs for other populations in order to align the City’s investment in workforce services and create a pathway that delivers the needed services to any resident and move them along a continuum to self-sufficiency.

“We are proud of the work that San Francisco has put into developing a strong workforce system that meets the needs of employers *and* provides the most vulnerable jobseekers with opportunities for middle-wage jobs and career opportunities,” said Kevin Carroll, Chair of the Workforce Investment San Francisco Board (WISF) and Executive Director of the Hotel Council. The mission of the WISF is to provide a forum where business, labor, education, government, community-based organizations and other stakeholders work together to increase their collective capacity to address the supply and demand challenges confronting the workforce.

The Office of Economic and Workforce Development is soliciting providers to deliver these programs through an open Request for Proposals process. More information on the RFP can be found at: www.oewd.org/bid-opportunities

About the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD)

The Office of Economic and Workforce Development's (OEWD) mission is simple – to create shared prosperity in San Francisco. OEWD provides city-wide leadership for workforce development, business attraction and retention, neighborhood commercial revitalization, international business and development planning. For more information, go to: www.oewd.org

###