



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 2, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
 Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront
 Subject: Grant Application: the CA Economic Development Department's Employment Training and Pathways Program Funding for Additional YouthWorks Participants

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution designating the City Manager or his designee as the authorized signatory to submit a grant application to the CA Employment Training and Pathways Program for up to \$600,000; accept the grant; execute all necessary agreements, contracts, and documents required to secure and administer said funds; and the City Council authorizes the implementation of the projects and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The City will submit a grant proposal in the amount of up to \$600,000 to cover the hourly salary, program materials, and training costs for up to 20 participants per year for two years. In addition, the 20% local match required by the grant will be provided in the form of existing FTE staff costs that administer the program.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On October 29, 2025, the CA Employment Development Department, on behalf of the CA Labor and Workforce Development Agency, announced the availability of up to \$16.3 million in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Governor's discretionary funds for the Employment and Training Pathways Program (ETPP) grant. The ETPP FY 26-27 grant will support the development and implementation of projects that accelerate pathways to employment for populations facing significant employment barriers into high-demand occupations for good-quality jobs.

The City's Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department (YouthWorks Division) will submit a grant application in December of 2025 for up to \$600,000 to operate a program to hire up to 20 participants per year for two years that will connect young adults that are not in school or jobs, or are English language learners with meaningful job training and paid transitional employment opportunities. Participants will be placed at partner agencies, including, but not limited to Inter-City Services, Waterside Workshops,

International Refugee Rescue, the Alameda County Youth Board, and Insight / Hope Meals Program. The grant application requires a resolution designating the signatory authority for the grant agreement documents.

BACKGROUND

The City's Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department provides programming activities for a wide range of youth, young adults, and families in the areas of academic tutoring, pre-school readiness programs for 0-5 youth and their and families, and recreation of all types. Part-time paid internships through YouthWorks offer Berkeley residents valuable work experience, training, professional development and career growth opportunities. YouthWorks aligns with the City of Berkeley's commitment to racial equity, recognizing systemic barriers and working to expand access to education, employment, and self-sufficiency.

During the school year of 2024-2025, the YouthWorks Division ran a successful program that involved three cohorts of paid interns from Berkeley High School, Berkeley Technical Academy, and Berkeley City College. Interns engaged in a wide range of staff-led workshops that focused on health education and workforce development. Interns worked at health-based community organizations and focused on peer-to-peer mentoring as well as community outreach efforts. Each year, the PRW Department seeks to build on the success of the program and expand the YouthWorks program offerings to reach a larger number of local youth.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no environmental impacts associated with the contents of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This program will help expand the City's YouthWorks program to provide paid work internships for up to 20 young adults each year for two years in Berkeley who face barriers to employment. The proposed program will support young adults who are not in school or jobs, or are English language learners with meaningful job training and paid transitional employment opportunities. This program will help the City work on two long-term City of Berkeley Strategic Goals: 3. Champion and demonstrate social and racial equity, and 9. Attract and retain a talented and diverse City government workforce.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, 981-6703
Rafael Rangell, YouthWorks Manager, PRW, 847-0984.

Attachments

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

GRANT APPLICATION – CA EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AND PATHWAYS PROGRAM
FOR ADDITIONAL YOUTHWORKS PARTICIPANTS

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2025, the CA Employment Development Department, on behalf of the CA Labor and Workforce Development Agency, announced the availability of up to \$16.3 million in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Governor’s discretionary funds for the Employment and Training Pathways Program (ETPP) grant; and

WHEREAS, the grant guidelines require the Applicant to designate signatory authority to sign grant documents on behalf of the applicant; and

WHEREAS, the City will submit an application for up to \$600,000 to cover the hourly salary, program materials, and training costs for up to 20 participants each year for two years; and

WHEREAS, the required 20% local match for the grant will be provided in the form of existing FTE staff costs that administer the program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or his designee is designated as the authorized signatory to submit a grant application to the Employment Training and Pathways Program for up to \$600,000; accept the grant; execute all necessary agreements, contracts, and documents required to secure and administer said funds; and the City Council authorizes the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

