



City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Workforce Development Board Staff Report
May 15, 2025

Topic: Renewal of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Agreement – Orange County Children’s Therapeutic Arts Center

AGENDA TITLE

Renewal of Orange County Children’s Therapeutic Arts Center Youth Agreement for Program Year 2025-2026

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend City Council approve a one-year agreement with the Orange County Children’s Therapeutic Arts Center, in the amount of \$250,000 for Program Year 2025-2026, subject to the availability of federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act youth funds.

DISCUSSION

Under the authority of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Santa Ana Workforce Development Board (WDB) is required to procure Youth Service Providers to provide WIOA services to eligible at-risk Santa Ana youth. On November 4, 2022, staff released the Youth Provider Request for Proposal (RFP) to establish a list of qualified youth providers for a four-year procurement period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2027.

After the RFP review process, the committee recommended that the Workforce Development Board approve the RFP ranking and forward a recommendation to the City Council to award an agreement with the Orange County Children Therapeutic Arts Center. City Council approved the initial agreement on June 20, 2023.

Orange County Children’s Therapeutic Arts Center (OCCTAC) will provide occupational skills training in office administration, mental health paraprofessional, and childcare worker certification along with workforce readiness preparation, paid work experience, tutoring, mentoring, counseling, and supportive services for 25 youth for \$250,000.

Orange County Children’s Therapeutic Arts Center (OCCTAC) has met their enrollment goals and is working towards meeting WIOA Youth Performance Measures for this program year. In addition, per federal regulations, Youth Providers must enroll and spend 80% of funds on Out-of-School Youth and 20% on work experience activities under WIOA regulations.

At the time of this staff report, WIOA grant allocations for PY 2025-26 have not been released. Staff was informed to expect announcement of final grant award to be released before the new fiscal year. In an effort to minimize disruption of workforce services to youth, staff recommends proceeding with the process to award contract with final execution of the contract subject to availability of WIOA Youth funds. On April 30, 2025, during a special meeting, the Youth Council voted 5:0 with members Jimenez-Hami, Martinez, and Sandoval absent; to forward the recommendation to the WDB.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds in the amount of \$250,000 are budgeted in the FY 2025-26 budget and will be available in the WIOA Youth account (no. 123XXXXXXXXX-69135).

Submitted By: Marc Morley, Economic Development Manager

Approved By: Michael L. Garcia, Executive Director of Community Development