



**MEMORANDUM**  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**HUMAN SERVICES**  
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: November 6, 2018

FROM: Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: Work Experience Cooperative Agreements

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Authorize the Director of Health and Human Services (HHS) or his designee to sign three-year agreements with local businesses and entities, to provide work experience to those public assistance recipients who are eligible to participate in the County Work Experience program (WEX) with Risk Management and County Counsel concurrence, and to amend the agreements as necessary with Risk Management and County Counsel concurrence.

**BACKGROUND**

Work Experience (WEX) is defined as a welfare-to-work training activity in the public or private sector under the close supervision of the activity provider, that helps provide basic job skills, enhance existing job skills in a position related to the participant's experience, or provide a needed community service that shall lead to unsubsidized employment.

Since the implementation of the California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program in 1997, HHS has offered the County WEX program to local businesses and non-profit community organizations to provide work experience to Placer County CalWORKs recipients, while assisting those agencies with workers at no cost to them. Workers Compensation Insurance is provided by the State through the York Company. Prior to referral to the WEX program, participants create a resume, complete a two week job readiness course and career assessment, and engage in job search activities for two weeks. Assuming employment is not secured, or that a training course is not appropriate, participants are referred to WEX by their Employment Services counselor, and a counselor from the Business Advantage Network (BAN) finds a placement consummate with the participants' career goals.

Since 2013, and the implementation of the State's Expanded Subsidized Employment program, participants are assessed for Paid WEX or for a Subsidized Wage position after a short period of successful participation in the unpaid WEX program. In 2017, 128 participants were placed in unpaid WEX and 84 have been placed through September 2018. In addition, with funding from the State Department of Social Services in 2018, recipients of both CalFresh and General Relief have begun participating in the unpaid WEX program due to implementation of the County's CalFresh Employment and Training program.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The funding for the subsidized wage program is funded by 100% State revenue received for the CalWORKs Expanded Subsidized Employment program and is included in the Department's FY 2018-2019 Final Budget.

The contract templates are on file with the Clerk of the Board for review.

