

Lisa Driscoll

From: Kristin Connelly <kconnelly@eblcmail.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 5:09 PM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Public Comment for Measure X Community Advisory Board

Importance: High

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board:

Thank you for inviting the Equitable Economic Recovery Task Force (EERTF) to present to the Measure X Community Advisory Board. The EERTF is a unique partnership that leaned on the expertise of our Contra Costa community to collaboratively imagine a more equitable economy. From this work, we identified recommendations to bring to you, which were presented on behalf of EERTF by Vic Baker on July 14th. These recommendations included investments in our early childhood education infrastructure, and support for funding to the Workforce Development Board for technical assistance to small businesses. We also made recommendations on investments in workforce development and a guaranteed income pilot, which I would like to expand on here.

Workforce Development Investments – The EERTF would like to see Measure X funding allocated to an effort to increase paid work-based learning opportunities. Paid internships and work-based learning opportunities provide community members – especially youth and those reentering the workforce - the opportunity to be exposed to potential careers and work environments. Measure X funds could be used to create matching grants to employers interested in starting paid internship programs, which would substantially increase the availability of paid work-based learning in Contra Costa. There are also work-based learning opportunities provided by the County, which could be expanded. Measure X funds could be allocated to County departments to provide paid-internship opportunities, such as those provided through the [Health Career Pathway program](#).

Guaranteed Income Pilot – The EERTF would like to see Measure X funding allocated to a county department to facilitate a guaranteed income pilot. Funds would be needed to conduct a planning effort and to identify the scope of the pilot, but the majority of the allocated funds should be given to pilot participants. This year's state budget included funding for guaranteed income pilots and the EERTF would like to see the county position itself to apply for these funds (and other similar funding that may become available). Currently, it seems likely that these funds will prioritize pilots for former foster youth and pregnant women.

The EERTF's work together focused on facilitating economic recovery and increasing meaningful opportunity for those disproportionately impacted by the COVID19 public health crisis. We are confident the above recommendations would contribute to a more equitable economy in Contra Costa County. We hope you will join us in supporting them.

Thank you for your time and commitment to these important issues.

With gratitude,
Kristin

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