

SANTA FE COUNTY

Resolution No. 2005 - 50

A Resolution in Support of Personal Re-Employment Accounts (PRAs) for Unemployed Workers Likely to Exhaust their First 13 weeks of Unemployment Insurance

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Labor (DOL) has funded a \$9 million pilot project of Personal Re-employment Accounts (PRAs) in seven states using each state's discretionary funding;

WHEREAS, under this effective pilot project individuals who are "profiled" as likely to be unemployed more than 13 weeks can receive a grant of up to \$3,000 to help defer the costs for core, intensive, supportive and training services designed to enable them to return to work;

WHEREAS, DOL had requested federal funding for PRAs but Congress has not appropriated any funding for the program to date;

WHEREAS, a recently introduced House bill (H.R. 27, "the Job Training Improvement Act of 2005"), includes language to establish PRAs for workers who lose their jobs and are likely to be unemployed for at least 13 weeks;

WHEREAS, the proposed Act would allow individuals to utilize the PRAs to pay for a wide range of services beyond these traditionally offered through Workforce Investment Act Individual Training Accounts, including relocation assistance, transportation and child care; and

WHEREAS, the Act would also permit individuals to receive as an incentive bonus a substantial portion of the balance of PRAs as a direct payout if they do not exhaust the first 13 weeks of benefits and remain on the job for six months.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County urges Congress to support the development of PRAs based upon the following principles:

1. The program should be part of the workforce development system established by the Workforce Investment Act;

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1. Planning estimates should be provided to local one stops by states on a quarterly basis that reflect expected caseloads within each workforce investment areas so that local one stops can be sure to have the appropriate infrastructure in place to meet anticipated need;
2. No more than five percent of a state's allotment should be used by a state for administrative purposes, and an additional five percent should be made available to local workforce investment areas to administer the program;
3. All remaining funds should be provided to program participants so that they may purchase needed services from the local one stop and other service providers;
4. Individuals receiving PRAs should be referred to local one stop centers for assistance, guidance and case management;
5. Local one stop centers should provide each PRA recipient with a re-employment plan as required under the Workforce Investment Act;
6. Local one stop centers should monitor the expenditure of funds to ensure that the trainee is receiving appropriate services;
7. Local one stop centers, local elected officials and local workforce investment boards should be accountable for the outcomes including customer satisfaction and employment only if they are granted oversight authority for the grants;
8. When available and in accordance with a general plan developed by the local workforce investment area and approved by the Governor, PRA recipients should be required to purchase all intensive services through the local one-stops and should obtain training and other services from providers approved by the local workforce investment boards;
9. Local one stop centers should be permitted to charge recipients of PRAs for development of the re-employment plan and all intensive and supportive services received through the one stops, as well as fees to cover the costs associated with grant administration and case management;
10. Unemployed individuals who obtain employment consistent with their re-employment plan prior to the end of their first 13 weeks of unemployment may be eligible for a bonus; and
11. All funds remaining in an individual's PRA shall be returned to the state so that these funds may be used to assist other eligible workers obtain re-employment assistance.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County supports additional funding for persons eligible to receive Workforce Investment Act services and believes, on the whole, that the Department of Labor pilot project is a good one and the changes identified above are necessary to ensure an effective program; and urges Congress to support efforts to provide clients with meaningful guidance, oversight, and assistance in obtaining training and employment.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 26th day of April, 2005.

SFC Clerk 04/27/2005

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Michael D. Anaya

Michael D. Anaya, Chairman

ATTEST:

Valerie Espinoza
Valerie Espinoza, Santa Fe County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Stephen C. Ross
Stephen C. Ross, Santa Fe County Attorney



SEC 04/27/2005



COUNTY OF SANTA FE) BCC RESOLUTIONS
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 27TH Day Of April, A.D , 2005 at 10 16
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1377206
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy *Marcella [Signature]* Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe NM