

426.2 JobPath Program Facility

Location: A central Tucson location near buses and main traffic areas that is easily accessible by participants arriving from all parts of Pima County. The new facility may be collocated with the Pima County One-Stop Center (Project 426.1) at the County-owned Aerospace and Defense Business and Research Park or at the County-owned site at Cushing Street and Interstate 10 (formerly the Theresa Lee Health Clinic location) at 332 South Freeway.

Scope: Approximately 4,000 square foot facility to replace an existing, smaller leased facility. The space would include a large training area/conference room, kitchen, storage room/mail room, restrooms and seven offices. It would also provide adequate parking for staff, volunteers and participants.

Benefits: JobPath has a significant economic impact on the community. Investing in the growth and success of JobPath will be a concrete, effective and proven way of addressing the county's high-poverty rate. The program addresses education and job training for unemployed and underemployed low income adults in our community.

Funding of this project will allow JobPath to move many more individuals and families out of poverty, through education and high-skill training, and into the workforce. The adult participants are unemployed, under-employed or working in low-wage jobs when they begin training. After training they become competent workers, taxpayers and contributing members of society. They buy cars and houses and help drive the economy of Pima County.

JobPath, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit workforce development program moved over 1,111 adults and their families from poverty, through training and into living wage jobs in the last eight years according to an Applied Economics Impact Report. It recruits low-income adults with either a high school diploma or GED, sponsors them through long-term high-skill training, and then helps place them in in-demand jobs such as in aviation and health care. With an average pre-training hourly wage of \$4.47, their average wage increased to \$20.13 per hour after training. The business community and the Pima County Interfaith Council formed JobPath in 1998 and continue to serve on its Board.

Funding this project will allow JobPath to serve up to 300 participants (with the goal to eventually serve up to 400 participants) in a central facility. It will also house the Bridge to Success project being launched for first generation college students in our community. JobPath will provide a bridge program to help adults who are first in their family to go to college, access resources and services, and successfully complete college level education and job training in career areas where there are jobs.

Total Cost Estimate: \$1,000,000

Bond Funding Estimate: \$1,000,000

Other Funding Estimate: None at this time.

Total Cost Estimate by Major Task: \$200,000 for planning and design, \$800,000 for land acquisition and construction. (Land acquisition expense not applicable if a County-owned site is selected.)

Implementation Periods: 1, 2

Project Schedule by Major Task: Land acquisition at 9-12 months (not applicable if a County-owned site is selected), design at 9-12 months, and construction at 12 months

Project Manager: Pima County (Project requested by JobPath)

Operator: JobPath

Regional Benefits: JobPath serves all eligible adult residents of Pima County and is a critical component to regional economic development. The organization is especially important for residents living in poverty who lack both basic education and marketable work skills.