

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release No.: 12-41A

Date: July 30, 2012

**State grant will provide training and employment assistance  
to 150 dislocated workers in the city of Richmond**

**SACRAMENTO** – Thanks to a \$825,000 grant from the state Employment Development Department (EDD), 150 workers who have lost their jobs due to local business closures and downsizing will receive training and assistance to re-enter the workforce in the city of Richmond. A series of substantial layoffs in the region have resulted in the elimination of positions in a number of industries, including manufacturing, retail, and information technology.

“During the past year, the city of Richmond has experienced a number of business closures and layoffs that have depressed the local economy and spiked the unemployment rate as high as 15.9 percent,” said EDD Director Pam Harris. “This grant will serve as a ray of hope for this city and the East Bay as a whole by providing the tools necessary to retrain unemployed workers for high-wage, high-skill jobs in the construction industry.”

The grant was awarded to the City of Richmond Workforce Investment Board to provide laid-off workers with skills assessment, job search assistance, on-the-job training, and short-term intensive training in construction-related occupations for which there is a local immediate demand.

A hiring agreement with the City of Richmond will offer direct employment opportunities for participants in project estimating, project management, design support, community engagement, contract/labor compliance, and procurement, along with skills training in the building trades.

Funding for the program is drawn from the Governor’s 25 percent portion of Dislocated Worker Funds from Title I of the federal Workforce Investment Act and is under the administrative authority of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency’s EDD.

For more information about this project, please contact the City of Richmond Workforce Investment Board at (510) 307-8006.

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