

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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**\$1 million in grants aid local programs designed to encourage employment of persons with disabilities**

**SACRAMENTO** - The California Employment Development Department (EDD) and the Workforce Investment Board announced today that they have awarded six grants totaling \$1 million to support local programs that facilitate employment of Californians with disabilities.

“All Californians deserve an opportunity to earn a living,” said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning, Jr. “These grants will encourage businesses to develop training for Californians with disabilities, ultimately offering skills and increased employment opportunities in high-growth industries.”

These grants are part of California’s Disability Employment Accelerator (DEA), which focuses on engaging businesses in high-growth industries and encourages them to develop training and service programs for people with disabilities. By enrolling in these programs, participants can develop the skills needed to become competitive, successful and integrated members of the workforce.

The funds will expand on the success of earlier state initiatives under the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) and the Workforce Accelerator Fund (WAF) programs. Only those groups that participated in the state initiatives and have programs serving people with disabilities were considered for awards.

The grants are made available by the Workforce Investment Act’s (WIA) Governor’s discretionary funds. This year’s DEA awardees are:

(more)

Applicant	Award	Industries	Contacts
City of Los Angeles <b>Los Angeles County</b>	\$166,670	Healthcare, Hospitality, and Security	Gregory Irish (213) 744-7164
Verdugo WIB <b>Los Angeles County</b>	\$166,666	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Management and Administration and Waste Services	Judith Velasco (818) 937-8031
Madera WIB <b>Madera County</b>	\$166,666	Manufacturing, Agriculture, Health Care, Transportation and Logistics, Renewable Energy and Hospitality/Tourism	Elaine Craig (559) 662-4589
Golden Sierra <b>Placer, El Dorado and Alpine Counties</b>	\$166,666	Hospitality, Information Technology and Retail	Jason Buckingham (530) 823-4635
Fresno WIB <b>Fresno County</b>	\$166,666	Technology, Business and Professional, and Government	Blake Konczal (559) 490-7102
San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development <b>San Francisco County</b>	\$166,666	Hospitality and Health Care	John Halpin (415) 701-4856

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