

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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EDD awards \$3 million to Los Angeles workforce agencies to retrain 600 laid-off American Apparel workers for new careers

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) today awarded \$3 million to the City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department and the County of Los Angeles Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services to help retrain 600 workers recently laid off from clothing manufacturer American Apparel.

“These funds will help those workers who lost jobs rebuild their skills and find long-term employment in growing industries,” said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning.

On January 16, 2017, American Apparel laid off 3,000 employees from its downtown Los Angeles, La Mirada, and South Gate locations. The retraining services offered by these workforce agencies will help workers with limited transferable employment skills and limited English language skills with vocational training, computer skills training, and English language proficiency classes. The EDD, the Los Angeles workforce agencies, and the Los Angeles Unified School District are working together to provide comprehensive services that will address the specific needs of the displaced workers.

The EDD will assist job seekers with initial job-search preparation, including career counseling, skills assessments, resume and interview workshops, and help with Unemployment Insurance claims. The Los Angeles Unified School District will provide classes in literacy and numeracy, English as a Second Language, and citizenship. Los Angeles Basin workforce development boards also will assist job seekers with training opportunities designed to provide skills necessary for future employment openings.

The grant funding is made available by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act’s Governor’s discretionary funds under the administrative authority of the EDD and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

For more information about this project, please contact Jaime Francisco, City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department, at (213) 744-9048.

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