

FACT SHEET



“EXPERIENCE UNLIMITED” JOB SEARCH ASSOCIATIONS

Many career professionals who have unexpectedly found themselves out of work are now working together, helping each other find new employment opportunities through job search programs sponsored by the California Employment Development Department (EDD). Provided at no fee to either job seekers or employers, these services are offered in selected locations throughout the state by EDD’s Experience Unlimited (EU) program.

The EU networking concept started in Berkeley in 1959 and expanded quickly throughout the state. Given the changes in the demographics of the labor force over the past 50 years and the impact of technology on business operations, networking is still considered one of the best ways to find employment. The EU members come from a wide range of professional, technical, and managerial fields to participate in the EU program to update their employment search skills to compete in today’s labor market. Members work together to share job leads, job-seeking knowledge, and experiences. For employers, the EU is a resource for highly skilled, professional, technical, and managerial job candidates.

EU Membership

Most EU members are mid to upper-level executives who have lost their jobs due to downsizing, mergers, acquisitions, or leveraged buy-outs. They have expertise in administration, management, finance, personnel, education, engineering, marketing, accounting, computer technology, and various scientific fields. Since the EU members have gained extensive experience from their previous occupations and often possess advanced degrees, their collective knowledge is an invaluable resource for re-entering the labor market.

EU Activities

The EU participation is self-directed. Members engage in job seeking activities under the general guidance of an EDD facilitator and actively seek job openings and interviews. During the search for work, they share professional insights based on their past experiences and provide advice and encouragement to one another. All members attend an orientation followed by a variety of workshops on topics such as job search training, résumé writing, and interview techniques. They must volunteer their time and services to maintain program operations and attend weekly meetings that include active networking.

Increased Job Prospects

The EU members have access to thousands of job openings through CalJOBSSM, EDD’s Internet-based labor exchange system. Employers also may view the EU member résumés in CalJOBSSM. This augments the prospects for interviews that members develop on their own.

EU Locations

The EDD’s Workforce Services offices provide space, equipment, and a staff specialist for each EU chapter. Currently, the EDD has the EU programs in: Anaheim, Canoga Park, Contra Costa, Corona, Fremont, Fresno, Irvine, Lancaster, Manteca, Murrieta, Pasadena, San Francisco, San Rafael, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz/Capitola, Santa Maria, Simi Valley, Sunnyvale, Torrance, and West Covina.

For more information, please contact your nearest EDD Workforce Services office, listed under “Employment Development Department” in the State Government section of your telephone directory. For additional information on other EDD programs and services, visit EDD’s Internet site at www.edd.ca.gov.

The EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.