

N E W S R E L E A S E

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EDD awards \$2 million to improve job opportunities for people with disabilities

SACRAMENTO –The California Employment Development Department (EDD) announced today it has awarded \$2 million in Disability Employment Accelerator funds to six organizations to provide career development and job opportunities to people in Amador, Calaveras, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Sacramento, San Diego, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Ventura counties.

“These funds will help workers secure quality jobs in the post-pandemic labor market,” said EDD Director Rita Saenz.

The awarded organizations will provide employment and training services, while emphasizing the use of distance learning and other technology-based methods to deliver services. This approach will help participants develop technology-based skills, which have proven crucial during the COVID-19 crisis, while protecting their health and safety as they receive program benefits. The funded programs will help people harness their transferable skills, while focusing on solutions to employment challenges.

To prepare these workers for employment opportunities in emerging regional industries, the funds will be used to implement customized programs that include vocational assessments, career counseling, technical skills training, credential programs, apprenticeships, paid work experience, on-the-job training, and job placement assistance. Other services include: access to technology to facilitate distance learning, housing assistance, child care, mental health care, and a wide range of other supportive services.

Using strategies to target viable industry sectors, these organizations will work with local businesses and industry leaders to develop work-based learning programs to help people with disabilities obtain and retain competitive, integrated employment. These organizations will provide training needed to fill positions in local, high-growth industries such as advanced manufacturing, construction, educational services, healthcare, information technology, logistics and transportation, professional and business services, and technology.

Funding for this grant was provided through discretionary funds made available to Governor Gavin Newsom in accordance with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and administered by the EDD and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

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These organizations were selected through a competitive selection process. Please refer to the table below for the organizations' contact information to learn more about the services available with these funds.

Awardee	County	Award Amount	Contact
Able Disabled Advocacy, Inc.	San Diego	\$350,000	Elaine Cooluris 1-619-231-5990, Ext. 319 ada@able2work.org
Sacramento Employment and Training Agency	Sacramento	\$350,000	Michelle O'Camb 1-916-263-3868 Michelle.OCamb@seta.net
Workforce Development Board of Ventura County	Ventura	\$350,000	Rebecca Evans 805-289-8127 Rebecca.Evans@ventura.org
Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County	Tulare	\$250,000	Adam Peck 1-559-713-5200 APeck@tularewib.org
Mother Lode Job Training	Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne	\$350,000	Emily Graham 1-209-536-4702 Egraham@mljt.org
Veterans & Youth Career Collaborative	Los Angeles	\$350,000	Nelson A. Varas 1-626-506-5414 nvaras@vycareer.org