

N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Loree Levy
Aubrey Henry
916-654-9029

Date: May 5, 2021

News Release No.: 21-29

EDD awards \$6.4 million to assist laid-off farmworkers impacted by industry fluctuations and COVID-19 pandemic

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) today announced it has awarded \$6.4 million to non-profit farmworker advocacy group La Cooperativa Campesina de California (La Cooperativa), to provide employment and training services to 962 laid-off farmworkers in counties covered by the [organization](#) throughout California. The services funded by the grant will be made available to recently laid-off farmworkers whose jobs were lost due to pandemic-related impacts that affected many local employers, as well as seasonal layoffs and agricultural industry developments.

“The employment services provided by these funds will help address the language barriers and challenges many farmworkers face that prevent them from finding stable jobs,” said EDD Director, Rita Saenz. “Getting these individuals the support and training they need to find sustainable employment is an investment in local workforces throughout the state.”

Through a network of local partnerships across California, the funds will be used to provide employment services, training, and career opportunities to dislocated farmworkers in the affected counties. The training funded by this grant will focus on mitigating employment barriers such as basic-skills deficiencies, limited prior education, English language skills deficiencies, and limited career exposure outside of the agricultural industry.

La Cooperativa will assist program participants through its provision of vocational skills and on-the-job training, pre-apprenticeships, and work experience placement. These programs will help prepare the participants to transition into locally in-demand occupations such as forklift operator, truck driver, electrician, green building construction, and photovoltaic design and installation.

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.

For more information about La Cooperativa and its services, contact Marco Lizarraga, Executive Director, at 916-388-2220.