

N E W S R E L E A S E

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EDD awards \$750,000 to provide job opportunities and training for dislocated youth

SACRAMENTO—The California Employment Development Department (EDD) announced today it has awarded \$750,000 to fund the Dislocated Youth Worker Innovation Challenge (DYWIC) pilot program. Three organizations will use the funding to help 200 dislocated out-of-school youth workers, ages 18-24, prepare for and find good paying jobs in Contra Costa, San Diego, and Ventura counties. “These funds will help young California job seekers attain good-paying jobs in growing industries,” said EDD Director Rita Saenz.

The DYWIC program will focus on hands-on, technology-based training, such as distance learning, in order to prepare youth workers to participate in the new virtual-based economy. This approach mitigates risks to program participants’ health and safety due to the COVID-19 pandemic while they develop relevant job skills.

Grant awardees will utilize a high-engagement approach to instruction as participants develop soft-skills and receive work-readiness training. They focus will be on developing participants’ transferable skills, while providing supportive services to address the particular challenges and barriers faced by dislocated youth. By working with partners and industry leaders, grant recipients will develop work-based learning programs that help the dislocated youth job seekers obtain and retain competitive employment.

The programs will include vocational assessments, career counseling, technical skills training and credentialing programs, apprenticeships, paid work experience, on-the-job training, and job placement assistance. Services will address employment challenges by providing access to technology to facilitate distance learning, housing assistance, child care, mental health care, and other support necessary for participants to succeed.

The young job seekers will gradually earn the training needed to fill positions in local, high-growth industries such as advanced manufacturing, construction, health care, information technology, office administration, and public administration. Funding for this grant is allocated through discretionary funds made available by 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.

(more)

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
Richmond Workforce Development Board	Contra Costa	\$250,000	Bouakhay Phongboupha 1-510-307-8050 bphongboupha@richmondworks.org
San Diego Workforce Partnership	San Diego	\$250,000	Sara Fox 1-619-913-8344 sarafox@workforce.org
Workforce Development Board of Ventura County	Ventura	\$250,000	Rebecca Evans 1-805-758-8411 rebecca.evans@ventura.org