

# WORKFORCE SERVICES INFORMATION NOTICE

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: PROPOSITION 39 GRANT 2.0 – REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

The California State Workforce Development Board (State Board) and the Employment Development Department announces the availability of approximately \$4.3 million to implement and support energy efficiency-focused “earn-and-learn” job training and placement programs, targeting disadvantaged job seekers. The funds were established by the voter-approved Proposition 39 - *The California Clean Energy Jobs Act* (SB 73 – Chapter 29, Statutes of 2013).

The State Board will fund grant projects that fill critical workforce skills gaps by creating opportunities for disadvantaged California job seekers to earn industry-valued credentials and enter into pre-apprenticeship, leading to apprenticeship or direct employment, in the energy efficiency or construction sectors.

In addition, the State Board is interested in funding applications that further advance the goals of California’s Strategic Workforce Development Plan 2013-2017 “Shared Strategy for a Shared Prosperity,” and build workforce system infrastructure and capacity through the following:

- **Collaboration** among regional partners in the development and delivery of “earn and learn” and pre-apprenticeship models in the energy efficiency/construction sector.
- **Innovation** that creates new approaches, adapts existing approaches, or accelerates application of promising practices in workforce development and skills attainment.
- **System change** that utilizes these funds to incentivize adoption of proven strategies and innovations that are sustained beyond the grant period.

California is a recognized leader in the development and implementation of environmental and energy efficiency policies and climate change management practices. To further this commitment, the state has directed the State Board to award grants that support the growth of California’s green/clean economy. The State Board estimates that approximately two-thirds of the jobs created by Proposition 39 Clean Energy Job Creation-funded projects in California shall be in traditional construction trade occupations, and shall have “green

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skills” elements that are critical to improving energy efficiency in school facilities across the state.

The Request for Applications (RFA) will leverage public and private investment in the energy efficiency industries to train disadvantaged Californians for entry-level employment and careers in these newly emerging fields. The first round of Proposition 39 grants (Prop 39 1.0) was announced in February 2014, and resulted in ten innovative projects. Prop 39 2.0 will build upon these successes, and solicit new strategies for California’s green/clean economy. Projects funded under this RFA will create opportunities for at-risk youth, veterans, women and other disadvantaged or disconnected job seekers to improve their qualifications for energy efficiency occupations and to qualify them for state-certified apprenticeship programs, community college career programs, and direct job placement.

### **Project Goals**

- Train at-risk youth, women, veterans, and other disadvantaged job seekers in green job skills.
- Create structured pathways to apprenticeship.
- Build the energy efficiency workforce.
- Align systems and leverage funding to optimize results and reduce service duplication.
- Implement, replicate, and/or scale successful innovations that emerged from Prop 39 1.0 projects.

Successful applications shall create or expand regional partnerships that include local workforce development boards, community colleges, community-based organizations, labor organizations and industry associations or coalitions of employers. Funds awarded under this RFA may be used to provide training, “earn and learn” activities, support services, and job placement assistance. In addition, the State Board shall make funding available for technical assistance and capacity building among key stakeholders, and for development of program elements, tools and service strategies that advance project and system efficiency, and effectiveness.

Technical Assistance & Capacity Building and Training Implementation Applications are due **December 18, 2015 by 3 p.m.**

Development Applications will be accepted on an on-going basis until **May 2, 2016**, pending availability of funds.

For more information on this funding opportunity and its requirements, please refer to the [State Board’s Initiatives website](#).

/S/ JOSÉ LUIS MÁRQUEZ, Chief  
Central Office Workforce Services Division