

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**EDD awards \$1.2 million to help implement programs that provide underserved job seekers with training and career development**

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) announced today it has awarded \$1.2 million in Equity and Special Populations (ESP) Technical Assistance and Evaluation grants to support underserved job seekers in California. The funds for Program Year (PY) 2021-22 are going to ICF Incorporated, LLC, to assist current ESP program awardees with implementing projects that advance employment strategies for this population.

ICF Incorporated, LLC, will enhance equity-of-access to workforce development services for English language learners, homeless and housing insecure, immigrants, justice-involved individuals, people with disabilities, veterans, young adults, and populations in locations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

“These funds will support strategies to help address the complex needs of these underserved individuals and get them on the road to gainful employment,” said EDD Director Nancy Farias.

ICF Incorporated, LLC, has demonstrated unique expertise in driving innovation and will use their experience to evaluate and provide technical assistance to this year’s ESP awardees. Together the team will design, develop, and implement projects that accelerate employment strategies for populations obstructed by significant barriers to good paying jobs.

This year’s grant will enable ICF to assess, analyze, and improve current delivery approaches for education, training, and employment services. Working in close coordination with the ESP PY 21-22 awardees, the EDD project managers, and stakeholders, ICF will build their organizational and leadership capacity, implement changes to service-delivery models, close service gaps, develop strategic planning, scale effective program design, and use this experience to inform future workforce policies statewide.

The program will develop industry investment and partnerships, while advancing projects that place participants into quality jobs with career pathways that lead to self-sufficiency.

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.

The organization was selected through a competitive application and evaluation process. For more information about ICF Incorporated, LLC and the ESP TA and Evaluation grant funds, contact Renee Rainey, at 1-202-297-0953.