

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Date: February 25, 2022

News Release No.: 22-10

EDD provides \$445,000 to assist workers displaced by recent Northern California wildfires

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) today announced that it has awarded \$445,000 to the Golden Sierra Job Training Agency (Golden Sierra) to support 45 workers and employers adversely impacted by the 2021 wildfires in Amador, Alpine, El Dorado, Nevada, and Placer counties.

“The impact of wildfires, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, has deeply impacted people throughout California,” said EDD Director Rita Saenz. “These funds will support job seekers and employers as they work to rebuild their lives and community.”

As a result of the fires, the region experienced impacts to its major industries, including retail, leisure and hospitality, arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services. With these funds, Golden Sierra will focus on stabilizing households, improving the employability of eligible workers, and providing mental-health services and other necessary support. They will employ various methods to assist job seekers in returning to work, including using work-based learning opportunities such as work experience, temporary jobs, on-the-job training, and occupational-skills training to meet the demands of the current labor market. Case managers will also direct participants to emergency resources such as food, clothing, shelter, and transportation.

Golden Sierra will use the funding to do community outreach, and provide worker needs assessments, supportive services, reemployment guidance, career development, and training. Businesses will benefit from planning meetings, layoff aversion strategies, and dislocation-specific recruitment events. Job seekers will receive services including customized job search assistance, virtual job fairs, and in-person recruitment events.

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, contact Ms. Darlene Galipo, Deputy Director, Golden Sierra Job Training Agency at 916-773-8552.