

M E D I A A D V I S O R Y

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**Employment Development Department awards Alameda County
\$995,000 to help 200 laid-off workers find work in local industries**

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) today announced it has awarded \$995,000 to the Alameda County Workforce Development Board to provide employment and training services to 200 workers laid off from Alameda County-area businesses including Tesla, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Amneal/Impax Laboratories, Bayer Pharmaceuticals, Kaiser Permanente and Serta-Simmons.

“This grant will provide these laid-off workers with new job skills, job placement assistance and career guidance to help them establish new careers in the region’s growing industries,” Said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning.

To help the workers find new opportunities in manufacturing – the region’s third fastest-growing sector – or at one of the area’s more than 1,000 biotechnology companies, the grant will support training for occupations including manufacturing production technicians, biological and chemical technicians, quality control analysts, mechanics and machine tool operators.

The workforce board is coordinating training through Las Positas, Chabot and Ohlone community colleges and partnering with Biocom, Biomedical Manufacturing Network and Manex – which represent approximately 600 member and partner companies – to identify job opportunities. Training will be based on career counseling, educational assessments and individual employment plans, and courses will be available on evenings, weekends, classroom-based or online. Some job training opportunities include apprenticeships, on-the-job training and internship matching funds.

Funding for this grant was provided through the discretionary funds made available to Governor Gavin Newsom in accordance with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and administered by the Employment Development Department and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

For more information about the Alameda County Workforce Development Board and its programs, contact Executive Director Patti Castro at (530) 259-3842.

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