EDD awards $127,500 to help pilot dental assistant training program in southwest Los Angeles area

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) announced today it has awarded $127,500 to the South Bay Workforce Investment Board to launch a pilot program that will train and employ dislocated workers as dental assistants in the region.

“Industry data shows that there is a growing need for dental assistants statewide,” said EDD Director Rita Saenz. “These funds will help provide training for dislocated workers to get jobs in this expanding field and get them back to work.”

The dental assistant pilot training program was developed by the California Dental Association, in partnership with the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, to meet the state’s growing demand. With two successful pilots conducted in the San Francisco and San Diego areas, the project is expanding to include the Los Angeles area, the largest metropolitan region in the state, with a current need of as many as 8,000 dental assistants. Significant growth is projected in this sector through 2028, with an average of approximately 2,200 new positions expected to be created each year.

The program is designed to prepare participants to quickly enter the workforce while complying with industry standards by creating an earn-and-learn pathway. Using an accelerated four-week boot camp followed by up to six months of paid on-the-job training, the program allows participants to enter the workforce much more quickly than the average 10-12 months of preparation required by traditional models.

Subjects covered in the program includes introduction to dentistry, compliance, procedures, materials, and patient care. Interested participants will also be provided an opportunity to enter a career pathway to become a registered dental assistant, which requires additional work experience and certification. Participants who choose to pursue this certification will be able to access exam review and preparation services through the training provider as part of the program’s follow-up services.

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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 about the South Bay Workforce Investment Board and its programs, contact Jan Vogel, Executive Director, or Michael Trogan, Special Projects Development Manager, at 1-310-970-7700.

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