

forward FOCUS

*Empowering supervised populations
through workforce training.*

*forward***Focus** aims to prepare ex-offenders for employment in industry sectors that are driving regional employment and high demand occupations within those sectors.

Returning to the community from jail or prison is a complex transition for most offenders, as well as for their families and communities. Upon reentering society, former offenders are likely to struggle with substance abuse, lack of adequate education and job skills, limited housing options, and mental health issues.

Workforce and Judicial systems and community leaders across the state have recognized the urgent need to lower the numbers of current prisoners and the rate of recidivism, in order to decrease state prison costs and increase public safety.

Working to reduce recidivism, the State and its workforce community are focused on improved employment outcomes for the supervised population through the creative and effective aligning of training, education, and other services for this population with the industries and employers driving regional employment.

Total Grant Amount:

1.0: \$2M

2.0: \$2.99M

Participants to be employed:

1.0: 260

2.0: 394

ForwardFocus is creating a space where California's workforce system can work to envision and realize cross-system integration and alignment, in an environment that encourages innovation and collaborative problem-solving.

In this new climate of realignment, the State Board has partnered with thirteen projects throughout the State of California, that aim to reduce recidivism and support individuals' re-entry into communities and families. For many, the attainment of marketable skills and employment are among the highest priorities post-incarceration. The common goal of these projects is to provide clients with criminal backgrounds with success in education and careers, resulting in reduced recidivism rates, improved public safety, and the return of economic benefits to individuals, families, and communities.

1.0

**California Human Development
Center for Employment
Opportunities
Friends Outside in Los Angeles
County
Sacramento Employment and
Training Agency
Ventura County WDB**

2.0

**Contra Costa WDB
Golden Sierra Job Training Agency
Humboldt County, Economic
Development Dept.
Monterey County WDB
North Central Counties Consortium
Orange County WDB
Santa Barbara County WDB Tulare
County WDB**