

## California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA)

CALPIA was established in 1982 as a semiautonomous State agency to develop and operate California's prison industries in a manner analogous to the private sector. CALPIA provides work assignments in industrial, agricultural, and service enterprises. The goods and services produced are sold to California State departments as well as local government entities. CALPIA's goal is to train offenders with job skills, good work habits, basic education, and provide job support in the community as a means of preventing recidivism among participants. Participants are required to earn a high school equivalency credential within two years of hiring and are offered nationally-recognized certifications in professions such as dental technology, food handling, agriculture, welding, industrial safety and health, electrical systems, and mechanical systems maintenance.

**Clients/Service Population:** CALPIA serves CDCR offenders who participate in the Agency's work assignments. The Agency hires about 7,000 inmates annually and operates in 34 prisons throughout the State.

**Strengths:** CALPIA participants statistically have lower recidivism rates than CDCR offenders. Over a three-year period, beginning in FY 2007-08, CALPIA participants returned to prison 26 to 38 percent less often than offenders released from the CDCR general population. CALPIA's Career Technical Education (CTE) program graduates have a recidivism rate of 7.13%<sup>1</sup>. An updated study on recidivism, conducted by the University of California, Irvine will be completed by the end of this fiscal year.

**Weaknesses:** CALPIA is currently limited to 7,000 work assignments for 130,000 CDCR offenders. Many of CALPIA's enterprise have waitlists for potential participants while other enterprises and programs have unfilled vacancies.

<sup>1</sup> 2007/2008 through 2010/2011 study. Full study available at [calpia.ca.gov](http://calpia.ca.gov)