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**CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD ANNOUNCES
GRANTS TO INVEST IN A NEW VISION FOR EQUITY, CLIMATE, AND JOBS**

Grants follow recommendations from CWDB's recently released "[Putting California on the High Road](#)" report that focus on social equity, climate resilience, and job quality to ensure Californians thrive in the transition to a carbon-neutral economy

SACRAMENTO – As California charts a path to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis, the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) announced today the latest round of grant awards for the High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP) program.

“High Road Training Partnerships are a crucial part of building a high road economy based on shared prosperity and jobs that lift families out of poverty,” said Julie Su, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development. “Now more than ever, we need to invest in equitable solutions for an economic recovery that will make our workers and our communities stronger and more resilient than we were before the pandemic. These partnerships are leading the way and showing us what a California For All really looks like.”

This round of H RTP grants totaled over \$10 million for eleven projects in a variety of industries that have important roles in helping California mitigate and adapt to climate change including: logistics, public transit, water utilities, electric utilities, hospitality, healthcare, electric battery storage, food production, agriculture, janitorial, and electric bus manufacturing. This is the first round of H RTP grants that are part of the [California Climate Investments](#) (CCI), funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF).

H RTPs are regional, industry-based, worker-focused job training partnerships that bring together workers, employers, and communities to collaboratively address job quality and access in their industries and build economic, social, and environmental resilience. This program provides a model for “high road” workforce development, creating economic opportunity and mobility for workers while improving the capacity of both workers and employers to compete in a rapidly changing carbon-constrained economy. As the state moves to a carbon neutral economy by 2045, and identifies the strategies that will allow for a more just and equitable transition, investments like H RTPs are critical to ensuring key industries continue to grow in a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive way.

“These H RTPs demonstrate how all workers have a role to play in the transition to a high road, carbon-neutral economy,” said Aida Cardenas, CWDB Deputy Director of the High Road Field Branch. “By bringing together industry-led problem solving and worker voice, these H RTPs create pathways to high quality jobs for workers and communities that have been systemically locked out of prosperity. We can’t have equity without job quality.”

One of these new grants targets the Inland Empire to support the development of high quality jobs and workforce training opportunities for essential workers in logistics industries in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

“This grant is a \$1.3 million down payment to help lay the groundwork for local efforts to transform the Inland Empire into a healthy, thriving, prosperous region for all of its residents,” said CWDB Chair, Angelo Farooq. “As we look at economic recovery, and development, we want to be sure that our investments target regions and industries that are being impacted by economic growth and climate resiliency.”

The awarded project is led by the Inland Empire Labor Institute, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and the Warehouse Worker Resource Center. Combined, these organizations represent thousands of essential, frontline workers in fast-growing logistics industries. The partners will convene workers, employers, community leaders, and environmental groups to establish the High Road Logistics Training Center and develop a new vision for economic development in the region that prioritizes high quality jobs with upward mobility for local residents, clean air, and a clean environment.

This historic partnership will link multiple industries in logistics and related work, including trucking, warehousing, electric vehicle operations and maintenance, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, building decarbonization, and energy efficiency.

Logistics work enables essential services throughout California and the nation, moving and delivering many of the goods that consumers and businesses rely on each day. It is one of the largest and fastest growing areas of the economy in both the Inland Empire region and the state. Approximately 43% of all container imports in the United States enter the country through the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and many of the goods are transported through and warehoused in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Currently, a significant percentage of logistics jobs in the region, especially in truck driving and warehouse work, pay low wages and lack job security and basic workplace protections. At the same time, the thousands of diesel trucks used to transport goods to and from warehouses have made this region one of the most polluted in the nation, with severe health and environmental consequences for workers and residents.

“The creation of the High Road Logistics Training Center represents an investment in the leadership of workers to reimagine a critical area of our economy,” concluded Cardenas.

Awards for additional HRTP projects are expected to be announced in early 2021.

A solicitation to fund the highly successful [High Road Construction Careers \(HRCC\)](#) is expected to be released in early 2021.

The initial appropriation to support HRTP and HRCC in the 2019-20 state budget act included five years of funding, however this is subject to the annual appropriation process and availability of revenues in the GGRF.

More information on current awards and how to apply for future rounds of funding can be found on the CWDB [High Road Training Partnerships Initiative page](#).

HRTP FIRST ROUND AWARDS

| Project Name | Lead Applicant | Award Amount |
|--|--|---------------------|
| High Road to Public Transit | California Labor Federation | \$1,000,000 |
| High Road to Janitorial | Building Skills Partnership | \$939,134 |
| High Road to Water | Jewish Vocations Services | \$676,427 |
| High Road to Public Service and Electric Bus Manufacturing | Worker Education and Resource Center | \$998,455 |
| High Road to Hospitality | Hospitality Training Academy | \$1,000,000 |
| High Road to Healthcare | Shirley Ware Education Center | \$1,000,000 |
| High Road to Energy Storage and Microgrids | California and Nevada IBEW/NECA Labor-Management Cooperation Trust | \$1,250,000 |
| High Road to Food Production | United Food and Commercial Workers Western States Council | \$800,000 |
| High Road to Agriculture | Equitable Food Initiative | \$600,000 |
| High Road to Public Utilities | Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy | \$500,000 |
| High Road to Logistics | Inland Empire Labor Institute | \$1,342,664 |
| Total | | \$10,106,680 |

The California Workforce Development Board’s HRTP Low Carbon Economy Workforce Program is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment– particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov

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