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CALIFORNIA'S HIGH ROAD TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS EMERGING BEST PRACTICE TO ENHANCE JOB QUALITY FOR RECOVERY

National Governors Association issues "[State Roadmap for Economic Recovery](#)" to help Governors and state leaders address four objectives necessary to respond holistically to the unemployment crisis as well as to recover and build resilience in the post-pandemic economy.

SACRAMENTO – As California charts a path to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis, the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) effort to build and expand High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP) across the state has been nationally recognized as an emerging best practice to enhance job quality through industry partnerships.

“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 A. Su, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Agency. “Now more than ever, we need to invest in equitable solutions for an economic recovery that will make our workers, communities, and economy 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.”

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.

“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 locked out of prosperity. We can’t have equity without job quality.”

In December, the CWDB announced over \$10 million in awards for eleven projects in industries that have important roles in helping California mitigate and adapt to climate change. Those industries include logistics, public transit, water utilities, electric utilities, hospitality, healthcare, electric battery storage, food production, agriculture, janitorial, and electric bus manufacturing. This new round of HRTTP grants are part of the [California Climate Investments \(CCI\)](#), funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). Awards for additional HRTTP 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 HRTTP 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 about current awards and how to apply for future rounds of funding can be found on the CWDB [High Road Training Partnerships Initiative page](#).

The California Workforce Development Board's HRTTP 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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