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CWDB ANNOUNCES GRANTS TO INVEST IN BUILDING BACK BETTER WITH EQUITY, CLIMATE, AND JOBS

SACRAMENTO – The California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) announces its latest round of High Road Training Partnership (HRTTP) grant awards totaling \$8.9 million for sector-based workforce development projects in several industries and areas that are critical to the state’s strategy for a just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis while addressing climate change and community resilience.

“We are excited to support these partnership projects that are leading the nation in showing how workers, employers, and communities can and must work together to build an equitable, inclusive clean energy economy. We have an opportunity to advance quality jobs and accessible pathways for underserved communities,” said Dr. Angelo Farooq, CWDB Board Chair. “This productive infrastructure enables California’s high road employers to compete and flourish.”

This round of grant awards funds 11 innovative projects in transportation electrification, building decarbonization, offshore wind, tribal forest restoration, long-term care, and other industries. The projects are located throughout California in Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, Kern County, rural communities in Fresno County, and the Greater Sierra Nevada region in rural Northern California.

The selection of these projects reflects the state’s priorities in mitigating and adapting to climate change through technology and innovation as well as nature-based ecological solutions. They also highlight the importance of healthcare workers and caregivers in supporting community health and resilience, especially as climate-related threats and disasters increase and become more severe.

One of the grantees is the California Long-Term Care Education Center (CLTCEC), which provides specialized training to caregivers working in both skilled nursing facilities and in-home supportive services.

“The COVID-19 pandemic, on top of increasingly dangerous wildfires, extreme heat, and power shutoffs, has emphasized the essential role that caregivers play each and every day, taking care of our loved ones and providing critical services that many Californians can’t live without. This HRTTP grant will give us the resources to prepare hundreds of in-home supportive services (IHSS) and nursing home workers to respond to health and climate related emergencies,” said Corinne Eldridge, President of CLTCEC.

These projects add to the CWDB’s previous round of HRTTP grants, announced in December, bringing the current HRTTP portfolio to more than twenty projects receiving a total of nearly

\$30 million in state and federal funds. As a whole, the projects reflect the state’s commitment to social equity, inclusion, and access for workers and communities that have faced barriers to opportunity, including those in low-income communities, communities of color, justice-involved individuals, rural communities, and Native American tribal members.

“By investing in the creation of high quality jobs and career pathways in clean industries and prioritizing those who have been marginalized, we will lead the economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis in a way that benefits California’s best and most innovative employers who invest in their workers to sharpen their edge in market competition” said Tim Rainey, CWDB Executive Director. “This high road approach is where the rubber hits the road with Governor Newsom’s vision of a California For All and President Biden’s vision to Build Back Better.”

Another grantee, the Miguel Contreras Foundation, will partner with the United Steelworkers Local 675, Proterra, and Jobs to Move America to establish a training program for workers in electric transit bus manufacturing. Project partners will work together to recruit, train, and hire individuals from disadvantaged communities and underrepresented groups.

“We are proud to partner on this project to ensure that workers from disadvantaged areas have good union jobs, which means a voice on the job, safe and healthy working conditions, and the wages and benefits to provide economic mobility for their families. This grant will help us to ensure that the electric bus manufacturing workforce is diverse and that workers will have the skills and training they need to do their jobs safely and effectively on the factory floor,” Dave Campbell, Secretary-Treasurer, USW Local 675.

HRTPs are 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 round of grants also includes projects focused on regional economic and workforce development planning in Kern and Contra Costa Counties, two areas particularly critical to California’s energy future.

For more information about the H RTP program, please visit the [H RTP](#) page on the CWDB website. The CWDB is also planning to award grants through its complementary [High Road Construction Careers](#) program in the coming months.

H RTP SECOND ROUND AWARDS

Project Name	Lead Applicant	Award Amount
High Road Regional Workforce Strategies: Contra Costa	BlueGreen Alliance Foundation	\$821,136
High Road to Safe Reopening	Building Skills Partnership (BSP)	\$600,000
High Road to Long-Term Care	California Long-Term Care Education Center (CLTCEC)	\$1,069,660
High Road to the Future of Mobility	California Mobility Center (CMC)	\$600,000
High Road Regional Workforce Strategies: Kern	Kern Community College District	\$1,999,725
High Road to Rural Sustainability	The LEAP Institute	\$499,999
High Road to Electric Bus Manufacturing: Proterra-USW	Miguel Contreras Foundation	\$646,345
High Road to Residential Building Decarbonization	Rising Sun Center for Opportunity	\$600,000
High Road to Tribal Forest Restoration	Sierra Institute for Community and Environment	\$1,000,000
High Road to Offshore Wind Energy	San Luis Obispo County Office of Education (SLOCOE)	\$600,000
High Road to Workforce Racial Equity	Worker Education and Resource Center (WERC)	\$499,000
Total		\$8,935,865

The California Workforce Development Board's H RTP Low Carbon Economy Workforce Program is part of the 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: <https://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/>.

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