

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

The UFCW WorkForward project seeks to make broad strategic and structural changes to how UFCW local representatives and employer partners identify and approach their mutual training objectives and outreach efforts in their communities. UFCW Western States Council (WSC) will help develop and facilitate three labor-management regional training partnership (RTP) committee convenings, which will be made up of management and labor representatives who will receive partner input from: Worker committees, Local workforce boards, Environmental, environmental justice, and social justice organizations, Local Education Agencies (LEA), experienced labor-management training programs.

COVID-19 has shined a spotlight on UFCW workers' essential place in California's current wellbeing and economic recovery. These are jobs in the food supply chain from agriculture and food and beverage manufacturing to grocery retail, and in other sectors like healthcare and cannabis. These jobs pay salaries and benefits that pull workers out of poverty and sustain families over the long term. But there is currently insufficient infrastructure to support middle-skill career growth for this critical workforce.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Demonstrably improved teaching and record keeping systems and increased administrative capacity
- 14 Cal/OSHA 30 training sessions with 140 UFCW cannabis workers earning Cal/OSHA 30 card
- Updated curriculum to better meet known Meat Cutter job demands and climate change challenges
- 45 targeted UFCW workers registered in community college Work Experience courses
- Help establish a multiple DAS registered cannabis apprenticeship, and explore new apprenticeable grocery occupations with the RTPs
- WorkForward will insulate training discussions from often contentious CBA negotiations and open them up to broader industry input and engage employers, workers, and Locals to identify and address local workforce inequity needs
- Environmental experts will be invited to partner with RTPs or participate in convenings to shape workforce and training development plans and curriculum

KEY PARTNERS

- United Food and Commercial Workers' (UFCW) Locals
- California retail grocery and cannabis employers
- Perfect Union

