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## California Takes the High Road to Equity and Economic Recovery with Historic Jobs Package for California's Workforce

*Governor Newsom's California Comeback Plan makes historic recovery investments, including a jobs package that expands High Road Training Partnerships that have been proven effective by a newly released UCLA evaluation.*

CALIFORNIA – As part of the California Comeback Plan, Governor Gavin Newsom last week announced a jobs package that invests more than \$1 billion for the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) to support California workers, businesses, and communities in leading the Golden State through an equitable and sustainable recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19.

“This is a historic investment in California’s unique and successful high road approach to workforce development that moves beyond conventional training programs and instead focuses on building a lasting infrastructure of training partnerships and systems delivering equity and mobility for workers, skills and competitiveness for employers, and long-term environmental sustainability and climate resilience for the state,” said Julie Su, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development. “This is the right way to ensure that businesses, workers, and our communities come back from the economic downturn with a competitive edge and a stronger, more robust middle class of hard-working families capable of withstanding future disruptions to our economy.”

Of the \$1 billion investment, \$250 million will go to scaling and expanding the High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP) initiative that, according to a newly released evaluation by the UCLA Labor Center, has been proven effective at addressing the urgent issues of income inequality, economic competitiveness, and climate change. A new, \$750 million Community Economic Resilience Fund will be created to support local planning and implementation of economic and workforce development strategies that enable California’s diverse regions to adapt to and seize opportunities that come with major economic changes associated with climate change, automation, and globalization.

The \$250 million scaling and expansion of the innovative and successful H RTPs, including High Road Construction Careers, will include new partnerships and regional collaboration with California Community Colleges. These training infrastructures will

target safe reopening and growth industries in the state, including forestry, hospitality, healthcare, information technology, energy, manufacturing, property services, and transportation and logistics.

The UCLA Labor Center released their final H RTP evaluation report today, which examined the first eight projects that the CWDB invested in from 2017 to 2020 using federal workforce funds. UCLA researchers conducted a process evaluation that provides a macro-analysis of the successes and challenges that the eight H RTPs experienced during an initial eighteen-month period as they developed partnerships and programming to address economic inequality, climate change, and job quality.

“The trailblazing work that these partnerships do every day in the field to lift up worker agency and make businesses more competitive deserve nothing less than a world class research institution evaluation,” said Aida Cardenas, CWDB Deputy Director for the Equity, Climate and Jobs Field Branch. “The assessment captures the essence of High Road Training Partnerships – true industry leadership, collective power, adaptive change, and equity – and sets the foundation for this historic state investment and expansion of H RTPs.”

The \$750 million Community Economic Resilience Fund will use federal American Recovery Plan Act of 2021 funds to provide support to High Road Transition Collaboratives to design and implement region and industry specific economic transition strategies. These collaboratives will focus on fostering high road employers, quality job creation, and accessible career pathways in economic and industry sectors that support the state’s transition to carbon neutrality.

“California has proven that we can grow the economy while cutting greenhouse gas emissions,” said Dr. Angelo Farooq, Chair of the California Workforce Development Board. “With this groundbreaking investment in building community economic resilience, the Golden State can continue exercising global climate leadership by guiding the transition to carbon neutrality in a way that leaves no worker and community behind – and creates economic opportunity for those who have long borne the brunt of pollution.”

The Governor’s California Comeback Plan proposals will now go to the California Legislature for final action.

More information on High Road Training Partnerships, including the recently released UCLA evaluation, can be found on the CWDB Initiatives page at:

<https://cwdb.ca.gov/initiatives/high-road-training-partnerships/>

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