

PRESS RELEASE

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STATE WORKFORCE BOARD PARTNERS WITH THE FOUNDATION FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO AWARD \$23 MILLION TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

The AB628 Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative focuses on innovative approaches to addressing racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in the labor market.

SACRAMENTO, CA – Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Local Workforce Boards throughout the state were recently awarded funding to support projects which remove barriers to employment for individuals across California. The California Workforce Development Board (CWDB), in partnership with the Foundation For California Community Colleges and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, awarded 42 statewide organizations nearly \$23 million in AB628 funding to workforce development education and training efforts focused on populations which are often overlooked in the job market.

[Breaking Barriers to Employment grants](#) will be used to support workforce preparation, education, and training programs for California residents to address regional labor market needs and create pipelines to quality jobs, income security for historically underrepresented worker groups, such as veterans, refugees, formerly-incarcerated individuals, and women of color, and ultimately increase their upward mobility. Many awarded projects also provide wraparound supports to address housing insecurity, mental health, trauma counseling and workshops, and more.

“The Breaking Barriers grants allow us to get funds directly in the hands of Local Community Based Organizations and Workforce Boards who have deep understanding of the unique barriers to economic success individuals face in their regions,” said Foundation for California Community Colleges Executive Director of Workforce Development, Tim Aldinger. “By providing holistic support to those preparing to enter or already enrolled in workforce and education programs, we can help individuals on the path to meaningful employment and address long-standing social and economic inequities in our communities.”

For full details, refer to the Breaking Barriers to Employment [Award Announcement](#).



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Learn more about the [Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative](#), the [Foundation for California Community Colleges](#), and the [California Workforce Development Board](#).

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