

BREAKING BARRIERS

Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative

AB 628: Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative Awards

The Foundation for California Community Colleges in partnership with the California Workforce Development Board and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency are pleased to announce that the following projects have been awarded for the AB 628: Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative Grant Program.

Awardees:

Applicant	Primary Partner Organization	Project	Summary of the Proposed Project	Region	Amount
Compass Family Services	San Francisco Workforce Investment Board	<i>Early Childhood Education Employment Pathway Project</i>	This project/partnership will work to address a very significant need in San Francisco: the need for more Early Childhood Education (ECE) staff, particularly staff who reflect the population of families being served.	Bay-Peninsula	\$719,903.86
*Dev/Mission	San Francisco Workforce Investment Board	<i>Pre-Apprenticeship Technology Training Program</i>	Dev/Mission trains youth in the most up to date and in-demand technology skills, places them into jobs with San Francisco's leading technology companies, and benefits the community by building young leaders who bring grassroots technology education.	Bay-Peninsula	\$300,000.00
Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco	San Francisco Workforce Investment Board	<i>Social Services Sector Training Program</i>	Will leverage Breaking Barriers to expand jobseeker access, deepen system integration, and amplify labor market impact for an early-stage workforce program with significant opening results and tailwinds from both an employer and jobseeker perspective.	Bay-Peninsula	\$750,000.00
PRC	San Francisco Workforce Investment Board	<i>Addressing Barriers to Work</i>	Project serves people living with HIV, substance use, and mental health issues by participating in an integrated community service system which assesses and addresses their vocational rehabilitation needs and provides employment services.	Bay-Peninsula	\$750,000.00
Step Into a Job	Work2Future RichmondWORKS	<i>Creating Opportunities for Marginalized Workers through Careers in Healthcare</i>	Project helps workers launch new careers as Medical Assistants in the high-growth healthcare industry by providing nationally accredited technical skills training, hands-on job experience, supportive services, and job placements.	Bay-Peninsula	\$540,650.00
Swords to Plowshares	San Francisco Workforce Investment Board	<i>Employment and Training Services to Increase Bay Area Veterans' Job Access</i>	Will provide veterans with veteran-specific workforce development services including individualized case management, connection to Local Workforce Investment Board networks, and access to wraparound supportive services.	Bay-Peninsula	\$332,078.55
International Rescue Committee	Sacramento Employment and Training Agency	<i>Refugee And Immigrant Skills for Employment (RAISE)</i>	The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Sacramento proposes the Refugee And Immigrant Skills for Employment (RAISE) program to break past barriers refugees and immigrants, hereinafter referred to as "new Americans", face achieving economic prosperity.	Capital	\$750,000.00
Saint John's Program for Real Change	Sacramento Employment and Training Agency	<i>Employment Training for Homeless Women</i>	Saint John's Program for Real Change (Saint John's) addresses addiction, mental health issues and barriers to employment before hands-on job training begins. Program length is up to 18 months.	Capital	\$641,787.05

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Climb Hire	NOVA WORKS Work2Future Alameda County Workforce Development Board San Diego Workforce Partnership	<i>Climb Hire California</i>	In partnership with leading employers, Climb Hire empowers “Climbers” to leverage technical skills alongside social capital and professional networks in order to navigate structural barriers to economic opportunity and career advancement.	East Bay; Southern Border	\$749,813.00
Goodwill of the San Francisco Bay	NOVA WORKS Alameda Workforce Development Board Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County	<i>Expanding Opportunities for Low Income Immigrant Communities</i>	Goodwill is seeking funding from AB628 to further refine and expand our ESL program, and to offer targeted pathways to career advancement for English learner populations that face significant barriers in the workplace.	East Bay	\$585,219.50
Opportunity Junction, Inc.	Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County	<i>Healthcare Career Pathway for Job Seekers Overcoming Barriers</i>	The overall goals of the Healthcare Career Pathway (HCP) are to help low-income job seekers overcome barriers to employment to launch healthcare careers, achieve financial security, and support their continued career advancement.	East Bay	\$750,000.00
Rubicon Programs	Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County	<i>Incentives & Stipends for Training Enhancement and Placement Success</i>	We propose the implementation of a new Incentives & Stipends for Training Enhancement and Placement Success (In-STEP) program to build on our learnings and strategically leverage countywide systems, partnerships and resources in a dynamic model.	East Bay	\$750,000.00
The Unity Council	Oakland Workforce Development Board	<i>The Unity Council Breaking Barriers Program</i>	This program will establish a customized pipeline for immigrant and BIPOC job seekers into pre-apprenticeship and related programs that incorporate ESL (including ESL math for the trades) and intensive case management and coaching as primary components.	East Bay	\$676,958.00
El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center	Riverside County Workforce Development Board	<i>Inland Intercultural Initiative to Increase Equity in Employment</i>	The project is based on the Life Coach Model who will assist eligible applicants in addressing barriers to employment by providing key services they need to enter, participate in, and complete broader workforce preparation, training and education programs.	Inland Empire	\$750,000.00
Starting Over, Inc.	Riverside County Workforce Development Board	<i>Path to Staffing, Employment, & Entrepreneurial Development (Path to SEED)</i>	Project assists formerly incarcerated people to prepare for, obtain, and retain living wage employment through delivery of a comprehensive employment readiness training with supportive services for housing, counseling, recovery programs, etc.	Inland Empire	\$750,000.00
*Sterling Solutions	San Bernardino County Workforce Development Department	<i>BeHOPE (Behavioral Health Occupations & Peer Engagement) Workforce</i>	The BeHOPE Workforce project is a continuation of Sterling Solutions' current BeHOPE Peer Specialist Training program that provides peer support specialist job training, career counseling, certification and placement into the mental health field.	Inland Empire	\$240,000.00
Chinatown Service Center	City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board County of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board	<i>Workforce Program for Low-Income Asian, Hispanic and Other Diverse Populations</i>	The Workforce program will be implemented using the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) evidence-based model, which allows participants to pursue career paths based on their own interests and strengths.	Los Angeles Basin	\$750,000.00

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Downtown Womens Center	City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board	<i>DWC's Employment and Supportive Services Program</i>	Project identifies opportunities for unemployed/underemployed women with histories of homelessness in Los Angeles to create sustainable pipelines to career pathways and provide gainful employment in response to regional demand in relevant sectors.	Los Angeles Basin	\$750,000.00
NPower	City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board	<i>NPower LA Tech Career Accelerator</i>	The NPower LA Tech Career Accelerator will establish a powerful engine of tech workforce development that benefits a wide range of economically disadvantaged people and enriches the Los Angeles tech workforce with more diverse skilled talent.	Los Angeles Basin	\$742,500.00
Pacific Asian Consortium In Employment	City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board	<i>Breaking Barriers: Equity in Early Education Employment Training Program (E4)</i>	Program accelerates equity in employment for immigrant participants by removing barriers to education and employment; connect them to education and Work Based Learning opportunities place them on career pathways in the growing ECE sector.	Los Angeles Basin	\$750,000.00
Per Scholasn	City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board	<i>Los Angeles Technical Training Project</i>	The overall goal of the Per Scholas Los Angeles Technical Training Project is to deliver increased access to quality tech sector employment to 90 Los Angeles residents who have been historically underrepresented in tech.	Los Angeles Basin	\$242,562.00
*TransCanWork	City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board	<i>Access for TGI Individuals to Employment</i>	Project will 1) Empower job seekers through workshop offerings 2) Improve our staff skill sets and referrals to include mental health, housing, and more resources for monolingual non-English speakers; 3) Continue and expand DEI trainings with corporations.	Los Angeles Basin	\$300,000.00
UNITE-LA INC	City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board	<i>Overcoming Obstacles - Connecting to STEAM Careers</i>	Project will increase employment outcomes for individuals by connecting them to STEAM career education, training and private sector work experiences in sustainable, high mobility industries.	Los Angeles Basin	\$720,000.00
*Women In Non Traditional Employment Roles	Workforce Alliance of the North Bay	<i>Hard Hat Women Equity Initiative</i>	Utilizing the career pathways approach we will increase women's educational and skills attainment and improve their employment outcomes while meeting the needs of local employers and growing needs of the union construction industries.	Los Angeles Basin	\$300,000.00
Canal Alliance	Workforce Alliance of the North Bay	<i>Canal Alliance Breaking Barriers to Employment for Latino Workers</i>	This project provides low-income Spanish-speaking Latino immigrants with services they need to enter, participate in, and complete broader workforce preparation, training and education programs aligned with regional labor market needs.	North Bay	\$524,161.18
Homeward Bound of Marin	Workforce Alliance of the North Bay	<i>Breaking Barriers & Building Pathways to Employment in the North Bay</i>	Project will offer workforce preparation, training, and support services for unhoused and underinvested individuals. Each participant will be provided comprehensive and individualized support needed to develop career ladders and achieve success.	North Bay	\$750,000.00

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North Coast opportunities	Workforce Alliance of the North Bay CareerPoint Lake	<i>Building Up Individuals and Local Development (BUILD) Project</i>	Project will help people who are experiencing homelessness or are precariously housed develop construction skills, acquire soft job skills, receive case management support, complete on-the-job training, gain certificates, and access job or apprenticeships.	North Bay	\$144,000.00
Digital NEST, Inc.	Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board Monterey County Workforce Development Board	<i>Digital NEST Youth Workforce Development</i>	Our program empowers youth and provides them with the resources they need to thrive in the 21st-century workforce. Our ultimate goal is to create economic mobility for underserved youth. Digital NEST centers are collaborative co-working spaces for youth.	North Central Coast	\$434,764.61
Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board	Center for Employment Training	<i>Summer Youth Empowerment and Employment Program (SYEEP)</i>	SYEEP was designed to provide youth empowerment and tools to process socio-cultural and race-based traumatic stress; to develop and institutionalize summer youth employment financially supported/driven by local employers; and foster community engagement.	North Central Coast	\$747,744.00
County of Humboldt (Humboldt Workforce Development Board)	Westside Community Improvement Association	<i>Roc-Rol (Revitalizing our Community, Reclaiming our Lives)</i>	Project provides justice-involved participants with greater economic stability, achieved through on-the-job (OTJ) training that provides a pathway to careers in construction and historic preservation.	North Coast County	\$288,305.84
Farmworkers Institute of Education & Leadership Development (FIELD)	Kern-Inyo-Mono Workforce Development Board	<i>Road to Self-Sufficiency</i>	Project will provide individuals the services they need through FIELD's English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, high school diploma program, Career Technical Education program in 8 pathways, and Conservation Corps which provides paid work experience.	San Joaquin Valley	\$750,000.00
*Get Focused, Stay Focused	Kern-Inyo-Mono Workforce Development Board	<i>CTE Pathways to Self-Sufficiency for Adult Learners</i>	This project aims to support underserved populations in California's Central Valley through participation in an innovative, evidence-based career readiness education program designed to close equity and participation gaps in CTE skills and employment.	San Joaquin Valley	\$299,888.00
Ready To Work	San Joaquin County WorkNet	<i>UPLIFT Breaking Barriers to Career Pathways</i>	Ready to Work (dba UPLIFT Project California), the program offers individualized, intensive, and flexible employment support to assist individuals to integrate in the workforce and create fulfilling lives.	San Joaquin Valley	\$750,000.00
Root & Rebound	Workforce Development Board of Madera County Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County	<i>Legal Services as a Gateway to Employment for Previously Incarcerated Women</i>	The goal of this project is to connect formerly incarcerated women in the Central Valley, particularly in the under-served areas of Madera and Tulare county, who are disproportionately women of color and people with low-incomes, with employment.	San Joaquin Valley	\$480,000.00
Eckerd Connects	San Luis Obispo Workforce Development Board	<i>SLO - Breaking Barriers to Employment</i>	Our program model provides participants with the necessary remedial skills development, support services, service coordination, and wrap around services required to prepare individuals for participation in workforce programming.	South Central Coast	\$480,000.00

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*Dreams for Change	San Diego Workforce Partnership	<i>Dreams Cuisine</i>	The project will offer short-term, transitional employment coupled with weekly personal development training and case management. The workforce training program uses a social enterprise model to provides the trainees skill development and paid experience.	Southern Border	\$270,000.00
Kitchens for Good	San Diego Workforce Partnership	<i>Project Launch Apprenticeship Programs</i>	Project Launch apprenticeship program prepares individuals with barriers to employment to be work ready, places them into jobs, and then tracks, mentors, and supports students during employment to ensure that wages/skills continue to grow.	Southern Border	\$443,513.59
Mission Edge San Diego	San Diego Workforce Partnership	<i>Project for Refugee and Immigrant Successful Employment (Project RISE)</i>	This project builds on the foundation of MAKE Projects' proven, hands-on and paid job training program for refugee and immigrant women and youth. As an employment social enterprise (ESE),MAKE Café and Farm provides first jobs for participants.	Southern Border	\$294,394.93
*National Foundation for Autism Research	San Diego Workforce Partnership	<i>Advancing High Tech Employment for Individuals with Autism</i>	NFAR offers comprehensive, autism specific, technical training, utilizing hands-on instruction, and real work samples in a simulated work environment to help participants develop technical proficiency, work skills and industry recognized certifications.	Southern Border	\$300,000.00
*Nile Sisters Development Initiative	San Diego Workforce Partnership	<i>LearnMore</i>	LearnMore is a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Home Health Aide (HHA) Vocational Training program, in which NSDI provides training and supportive services for qualified candidates so they can become equipped with skills necessary to obtain careers.	Southern Border	\$300,000.00
*Rise Up Industries	San Diego Workforce Partnership	<i>Reentry Program</i>	RUI's 18-month Reentry Program pairs employment with wraparound reentry supports for members. RUI aligns with and contributes toward the Southern Border Region's aim to expand our impact on reducing recidivism.	Southern Border	\$300,000.00
San Diego Youth Services	San Diego Workforce Partnership	<i>TAYWORKS!</i>	TAY WORKS! innovatively addresses deficiencies in developmentally and culturally responsive workforce development in San Diego by offering trauma-informed workshops and services.	Southern Border	\$600,000.00

* Small Community Based Organization