

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 5/15/2023

Contact: Anna Champe, Communications Manager  
[anna.champe@cwdb.ca.gov](mailto:anna.champe@cwdb.ca.gov) | (916) 764-2767

---

### NEW STATE INITIATIVE AIMS TO INCREASE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED CALIFORNIANS

*Investment will fund employment services through community-based organizations and other nonprofits, request for applications now open*

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) is launching a unique funding opportunity for community-based organizations (CBOs) and nonprofit organizations throughout the state to provide employment services to justice-involved individuals. The [Helping Justice-Involved Reenter Employment \(HIRE\)](#) initiative provides funding for vital supportive services, training and reskilling, and increased employment opportunities for individuals who are on parole, probation, mandatory supervision, or post-release community supervision. The initial \$50 million will be available to qualified grantees later this summer.

“Investing in rehabilitation and economic opportunities for people who are justice-involved reduces recidivism and makes our communities safer,” said Curtis Notsinneh, Chief Deputy Director for the California Workforce Development Board. “With valuable design input from stakeholders, our newest grant program, HIRE, will build upon our suite of reentry workforce initiatives and partnerships toward a more innovative and effective approach to justice.”

HIRE grants will be available to CBOs and other non-profit organizations that specialize in serving the reentry population and demonstrate:

- Relationships with employers that hire individuals with a criminal record.
- A history of developing training programs with feedback from the reentry population.

HIRE funding will be awarded through a competitive solicitation process in which reentry-focused CBOs may apply either independently, or as part of a “network” of CBOs encompassing multiple organizations applying together. CBOs applying as part of a network will be eligible for higher award amounts.

To learn more and/or apply, please visit the [HIRE Request for Applications](#).

The HIRE initiative is the latest program developed by the [Corrections-Workforce Partnership](#), a



800 Capitol Mall, Suite 1022  
Sacramento CA 95814  
T: 916-657-1440

[www.cwdb.ca.gov](http://www.cwdb.ca.gov)

state-level collaboration effort between the CWDB, the [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation](#) (CDCR), and the [California Prison Industry Authority](#) (CalPIA). Since 2018, the CWDB has partnered with CDCR and CalPIA to develop ways to improve labor market outcomes for the state's justice-involved and formerly incarcerated populations. For additional information on the partnership, visit the [Corrections-Workforce Partnership](#) page on the CWDB's website.

**Learn more about [HIRE](#) and the [California Workforce Development Board](#).**

###