

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

Fifteen years ago, the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) and the Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Building Trades Council (FMTK BTC) created the ValleyBuild construction apprenticeship readiness program. Since then, they have used funding from CWDB to export their model from Fresno and adjacent counties to the entirety of the Central Valley and the Sierras. With the initiative now operating throughout the entirety of the Central Valley and Sierra's, ValleyBuild is improving upon this work through the provision of stipends to participants, the enhancement of pre-apprenticeship training, and the improvement of the apprenticeship opportunities available to participants through the promotion of local hiring provisions. The project serves Fresno, Madera, Kings, Inyo, Tulare, Stanislaus, Merced, Tuolumne, Mariposa, San Joaquin, Calaveras, Amador, Alpine, Kern, and Mono counties.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- ValleyBuild participants complete a four-week Construction Bootcamp training, which includes the “Bridge to MC3” Construction Math and Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL) courses, safety and tools training, and soft skills training using “Thinking for a Change” curriculum.
- To enable participants to participate full-time in construction pre-apprenticeship training and bridge the gap between being hired and/or accepted into a construction apprenticeship, ValleyBuild provides financial support in the form of needs-based stipends. Paid work experience is also offered to those completing MC3 training so they can earn a living while waiting to get hired into apprenticeships.
- FRWDB works with the Fresno Council of Governments (COG) to lead a countywide effort to encourage jurisdictions to adopt language that will require local hire provisions in solicitations and contracts for construction projects that make use of federal, state, or local funds. Under HRCC: RWF, FRWDB work with local boards to promote the adoption of similar procurement and contracting provisions by local COGs. Efforts are being expanded to engage all local boards and COGs throughout the entirety of their 14-county region.

KEY PARTNERS

- Fresno-Madera-Kings-Tulare (FMTK BTC)
- Stanislaus-Mariposa-Merced-Tuolumne (Valley BTC)
- Madera County Workforce Development Board
- San Joaquin-Calaveras-Alpine (SJCA BTC)
- Kern-Inyo-Mono (KIM BTC)
- Merced County Workforce Development Board
- Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission - Valley Apprenticeship Connections (VAC)
- Tradeswomen, Inc.
- San Joaquin County Workforce Development Board
- Merced County Workforce Development Board
- Stanislaus County Workforce Development Board
- Mother Lode Workforce Development Board
- Kern-Inyo-Mono Workforce Development Board
- Kings County Workforce Development Board
- Tulare County Workforce Development Board