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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### STATE WORKFORCE BOARD AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOUNDATION RELEASE \$4.2 MILLION TO DEVELOP ESSENTIAL WORKFORCE SKILLS

*The Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative invests in key services for individuals in workforce programs to allow them to succeed*

SACRAMENTO, CA – The [Foundation for California Community Colleges](http://www.foundationccc.org), in partnership with the [California Workforce Development Board](http://www.cwdb.ca.gov), is pleased to announce the availability of up to \$4.2 million in grant funding through the [Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative](http://www.foundationccc.org).

The Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative aims to help Californians from a variety of backgrounds gain the skills and competencies necessary to successfully enter the labor market, retain employment, and earn wages that lead to self-sufficiency, and, eventually, economic security. Target populations include youth who are disconnected from the education system or employment, English language learners, persons who are incarcerated and soon to be released or formerly incarcerated, migrants or seasonal farmworkers, and more.

The initiative is intended to supplement existing workforce and education programs by providing services to ensure the success of individuals either preparing to enter or already enrolled in workforce and education programs. This can include services such as mental health services, industry certifications, paid work experience, and basic skills training.

To be eligible for funding, these services must be delivered through a collaborative partnership between mission-driven, community-based organizations with experience in providing services to the target population and local workforce development boards.

“Many employment success stories from our public systems are the fruit of partnerships with complementary groups who are mission-aligned. Through Breaking Barriers, grantees have space to make connections with one another, strengthen their existing partnerships, and design community-centered programs that bear more fruit,” said Foundation for California Community Colleges Executive Director of Workforce Development Tim Aldinger.

Learn more about Breaking Barriers and the Request for Application [here](#).

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