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PRESS RELEASE

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STATE WORKFORCE BOARD AWARDS \$49 MILLION TO HELP PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

The Helping Justice-Involved Reenter Employment (HIRE) initiative aims to increase employment opportunities and job mobility for formerly incarcerated and justice-involved individuals.

SACRAMENTO, CA – The [California Workforce Development Board](http://www.cwdb.ca.gov) (CWDB) recently awarded \$49,289,310 to nineteen projects to provide training, reskilling, upskilling, and supportive services to the reentry population. Awards went to community-based organizations (CBOs) and other nonprofits that have proven experience helping formerly incarcerated and justice-involved Californians.

"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. "Developed with input from stakeholders, HIRE builds upon our suite of reentry workforce initiatives and partnerships toward a more innovative and effective approach to justice."

This is the newest program under the Corrections-Workforce Partnership, a state-level collaboration effort between CWDB, the [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov) (CDCR), and the [California Prison Industry Authority](http://www.calpia.ca.gov) (CalPIA). Since 2018, the CWDB has formally partnered with CDCR and CalPIA to improve labor market outcomes of the state's justice-involved and formerly-incarcerated populations. HIRE funds will build on the CWDB's past and current investments in workforce programming for the reentry population.

Projects receiving funding include:

- *\$6.9 million for California's Reentry Employment Opportunity Network (CEO)* – Partnering with eight reentry services specialists, including The Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Rubicon Programs, Turning Point, and People Working Together, CEO will offer a wide range of workforce services to individuals who are impacted by the legal system. Project goals include enrolling 1,545 participants, providing post-secondary education to 366 individuals, and placing 578 participants into new employment.
- *\$5.8 million for South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB)* – SBWIB will serve as the lead convenor alongside eight partner organizations, including Foothill Unity Center, Ten Toes In, and Compator Inc., to enroll 520 formerly-incarcerated individuals from the Los Angeles area into career services, job placement, and other supportive services.

- *\$5.3 million for Christ-Centered Ministries (CCM)* – This project will work with local and state prisons to offer education and job training programs to incarcerated individuals before their release. The seven partner organizations will provide various crucial resources to participants, including housing, education, family reunification, and stabilization services.
- *\$750,000 for Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS)* – This established program will expand employment opportunities and job mobility for justice-involved individuals in Oakland and greater Alameda County. Services offered will include needs assessments, education, cognitive skills training, paid work experience, reskilling/upskilling, and wraparound services that address health, mental health, family stability, family reunification, and legal barriers.
- *\$750,000 for Ready to Work (RTW)* – RTW will expand its services to more of the San Joaquin County reentry population, including increasing the level of supportive services through its Power of Work program and leveraging existing referrals through its partnership with the San Joaquin District Attorney's Office and Clean Slate Program.

A complete list of awardees can be found on [CWDB's website](#).

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