

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

The Dental Assistant Training project will address the declining number of first-year dental assisting program enrollees by providing an earn-as-you-learn model for aspiring dental assistants. The project will recruit individuals without a college degree, low-income Californians, and those displaced from other industries, offering them a pathway to become qualified dental assistants and potentially, licensed Registered Dental Assistants (RDAs) in as little as 15 months or 1280 hours of clinical work experience.

A collaboration between the California Dental Association Foundation (CDAF) and Jewish Vocational Services (JVS), the goal is to expand and enhance the existing dental assisting accelerated training programs. The project aims to provide core foundational skills to prepare candidates for working in a dental practice, coupled with continued on-the-job training and advancement opportunities in a six-week bootcamp that combines classroom and hands-on training. Additionally, it seeks to expand training opportunities to support growth for dental assistants and other incumbent dental office workers, offering the necessary certifications to obtain state licensure by passing the RDA exam.

The Dental Assistant Training initiative is designed to bridge the gap in trained dental assistants, particularly in underserved communities, by providing accessible and comprehensive training programs that prepare individuals for a career in dental assisting and offer a pathway to becoming licensed RDAs.

TARGET POPULATION

This project will serve underserved communities and those who have been historically excluded from education and/or employment opportunities, including people of color, those without a traditional four-year college degree, women, low-income workers, and English Language Learners.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Increase the diversity of the dental profession in California for new workers and incumbent workers.
- Hybrid training program that includes both online learning and in-person training with a training provider in partnership with the local workforce board.
- Enroll and serve up to 285 participants between CDAF and the JVS Dental Assistant Training program model.
- Following completion of training, participants will be placed into full-time jobs as DAs in a dental office.
- Scale bootcamps to additional regions of need while continuing to support established regions.

KEY PARTNERS

- Local Dental Societies
 - Allied Health Associations
 - Turning Basin Labs
 - Jewish Vocational Services (JVS)
 - San Diego Workforce Partnerships
 - Grossmont Health Occupational Center
 - Riverside County Office of Education
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