



EQUITY | CLIMATE | JOBS

Line Clearance Tree Trimmer Education and Long-Term Success

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

The California Wildfire Workforce Expansion Project, pursuant to SB247, aims to address the root causes of the state’s wildfire epidemic by attracting and retaining a projected 3000 additional workers over the next 5 years. These workers will focus on trimming and removing vegetation away from powerlines through a certification program which puts California line clearance tree trimmers at the forefront of training, education, wages, and professionalism.

This project will expand the reach of current online education by creating video training content in Spanish and English and to updating old standards to reflect current best practices. It will create value in the workforce by investing in individuals’ careers, offering reimbursement for commercial driver's training and licensing, and providing stipends for time off work.

The Cal- Nev JATC Line Clearance Tree Trimmer certification will offer recognition for industry training and experience, enhancing the visibility and professionalism of the career. Currently, there are 15 full-time field instructors to cover the workforce of approximately 8,000 across California's electrical grid. The project aims to supplement, enhance, and standardize training and education for the workforce in areas of safety and efficiency. This will lead to improved communication and higher confidence of positive outcomes between workforces from various regions throughout the state.

TARGET POPULATION

This project will serve both incumbent workers and new workers in underserved and under resourced communities.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- “Up-skilling” vegetation management workers and Line Clearance Tree Trimmers that live in underserved and under resourced communities and provide tuition reimbursement.
- Legitimize workers in this industry, provide access to training, education, and certification for those populations without the resources to go to a college or vocational school.
- Train entry level workers to become Qualified Line Clearance Tree Trimmers including conducting field assessments and proctored final exams.
- As the participants progress through the program (approximately every six months) they will be advanced up in step level/job classification. Each step level advancement results in more job responsibility and a wage increase.

KEY PARTNERS

- Arborworks, Inc.
- Wright Tree Service of the West
- IBEW 1245
- IBEW 47
- IBEW 465
- Pacific Gas & Electric
- Commercial Driver License Schools