

PRESS RELEASE

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Investing in Workers, Powering Innovation

State Workforce Board awards grants to advance California Jobs First sectors.

SACRAMENTO – The California Workforce Development Board today announced the recipients of \$18.6 million in 2025 High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP) funding. The goal of H RTP is to increase access to jobs that pay family-sustaining wages, provide strong benefits, and offer stable and safe working conditions. The latest round of funded projects are expected to serve at least 4,600 Californians statewide.

“California is building a workforce that meets the moment by aligning training with the industries driving our economy. These investments create pathways to solid careers, strengthening workers, families, and California communities.” -**Governor Newsom**

“H RTP has helped thousands of Californians gain the skills necessary to advance in high-demand careers while strengthening industries across the state,” **said Stewart Knox, California Secretary of Labor.** “This final round of funding builds on that impact by supporting programs that deliver real results.”

“These investments reflect California’s commitment to building an inclusive economy – connecting workers to good jobs while helping employers build the skilled workforce they need to compete and grow,” **said Kaina Pereira, Executive Director of the California Workforce Development Board.** “In coordination with the Master Plan for Career Education, through investments in our education partners, we are aligning workforce development with career education to power innovation and prepare California’s future workforce.”

Since 2019, High Road Training Partnership programs have trained 32,000 California workers – predominantly serving individuals facing employment barriers and spanning critical industries such as healthcare, technology, and manufacturing.

The projects funded by this final round of H RTP awards support key [California Jobs First](#) strategic sectors, strengthening regional economies, improving job quality, and supporting climate-resilient industries. The grants operationalize the Jobs First [Economic Blueprint](#) and align with the [Master Plan for Career Education](#) by linking regional investment to accessible career pathways.

Projects receiving funding include:



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- *\$3.5 million for the Miguel Contreras Foundation* to expand its current H RTP project to train and place unemployed Opportunity Youth into sustainable healthcare careers.
- *\$3.5 million for the San Bernardino Community College District* to expand the Inland Empire Regional Collaborative's regional, multi-industry approach to four new sectors: Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Economy Adoption and Innovation in lithium workforce pathways, and Cybersecurity.
- *\$3.5 million for The Empowerment Center* to expand its current Mental Health Community Health Worker project to a supportive service and training academy. This expansion will prioritize regions impacted by wildfires and floods, specifically within Los Angeles County, supporting recovery through trauma-informed care and job creation that responds to California's evolving climate realities.

A complete list of awardees can be found at [H RTP 2025 Award Announcement](#).

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The [California Workforce Development Board](#) forges partnerships with businesses, labor, and government to build an economy defined by equity, quality jobs, and climate resiliency that challenges systemic barriers toward shared economic prosperity. CWDB's programming advances industry-led collaborations that promote equity, climate resilience, and job quality, creating pathways to good jobs and meeting workforce and employer needs.