

PRESS RELEASE

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Building California's Infrastructure

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

SACRAMENTO, CA – The [California Workforce Development Board](http://www.cwdb.ca.gov) (CWDB), in partnership with the [California Department of Transportation](http://www.dot.ca.gov), has announced \$8 million in grant funding to 13 projects statewide to advance equitable access to high-quality careers in the building and construction trades. This funding represents the first of two investment rounds under the program. An additional \$19 million will be announced later this year.

The [High Road Construction Careers 2026 Grant Program Round One](#) (HRCC 2026) funds worker training to meet the hiring needs of public infrastructure and construction projects. The program will also support entry into pre-apprenticeship and joint-apprenticeship programs for individuals who have traditionally faced barriers to employment in the construction trades, including women, veterans, and justice-involved individuals. Ultimately, the funding will increase employment in the construction trades, improve wages for workers, and drive economic activity in communities that need it most. HRCC prioritizes placing Multi-Craft Core Curriculum-certified graduates into Caltrans-identified infrastructure projects or other apprenticeship and supportive service opportunities when immediate placement is unavailable.

“Infrastructure is vital to economic opportunity, and that vitality starts with the people who build it. Our High Road to Construction Careers partnership with Caltrans provides the training needed to connect Californians to these opportunities to build the present and the future, said CWDB Executive Director Kaina Pereira.

In alignment with Governor Newsom’s [California Jobs First](#) strategy, the HRCC 2026 grant supports construction projects that will target all regions of California, providing training and construction jobs to workers in vital areas of the state. Today's High Road funding announcement is part of a larger, multi-level state investment to promote workforce development efforts that prioritize equity, quality jobs, and climate resilience while meeting regional labor market needs. The HRCC 2026 grant adds more apprenticeship and training opportunities for Californians, helping meet the Governor’s goal of serving 500,000 earn-and-learn apprentices by 2029.

“Caltrans is proud to partner with the California Workforce Development Board to expand pathways into meaningful, well-paid construction trades careers,” said Caltrans Director Dina



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El-Tawansy. “These investments will strengthen our ability to deliver vital infrastructure projects while ensuring that the workforce building California’s future reflects the diversity and talent of the communities we serve.”

A complete list of awardees can be found on the [HRCC 2026 webpage](#).

The CWDB plans to issue a Round Two HRCC 2026 solicitation for \$19 million in the 2026–27 Fiscal Year to projects demonstrating strong hiring demand and alignment with infrastructure investments. This phased approach allows the state to sustain existing capacity while directing future investments to areas of greatest need and opportunity.

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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.