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Workforce

PRESS RELEASE

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California Invests $19M to Strengthen Construction Workforce

The California Workforce Development Board announced $19 million to expand career training and strengthen access to high-quality jobs.

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Workforce Development Board (CWDB), in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), has announced an additional $19 million in grant funding for projects statewide. This second round of **High Road Construction Careers 2026** (HRCC 2026) funding will help meet the state's demand for a skilled construction workforce while providing career opportunities for individuals who have traditionally faced barriers to employment.

"Infrastructure is vital to economic opportunity, and that vitality starts with the people who build it," said CWDB Executive Director Kaina Pereira. "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."

In alignment with California Jobs First, the HRCC 2026 Round Two grant continues to support infrastructure projects across California. The grant funds training and joint-apprenticeship programs for workers statewide while driving economic activity in communities that need it the most.

Since 2019, CWDB has invested $73 million in the HRCC grant program, training over 7,000 Californians for good-paying careers in the construction industry. Altogether, CWDB invested $596 million in programs that helped over 80,000 Californians enter good-paying careers.

"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 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."

For more information, contact media@cwdb.ca.gov.

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The California Workforce Development Board forges partnerships with businesses, labor, and government to build

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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 the needs of workers and employers.