

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**EDD awards \$1.35 million to provide training and job opportunities for English language learners**

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) announced today that it has awarded \$1.35 million to four Local Workforce Development Boards (Local Board) to implement an English Language Learners (ELL) Pathways to Careers program. These projects will provide 460 ELL participants with increased access to effective training models, supportive services, and incorporate innovative employment strategies with partners to create career opportunities in growing industries.

“California immigrants are a sizeable portion of our workforce and integral to the state’s economy,” said EDD Director Sharon Hilliard. “This funding will strengthen workforce partnerships to implement innovative strategies that prepare the ELL community for employment opportunities in emerging industries.”

The four Local Boards, serving Colusa, Glenn, Madera, San Joaquin, Sutter, Ventura, and Yuba counties, will provide employment and training services to meet the needs of the ELL participants within their local areas. Services will include English classes, job skills development, and career guidance for those confronting employment and economic barriers due to their limited English language and work skills. The Local Boards will use the funds to:

- Increase access to workforce services for ELL participants.
- Co-enroll participants in multiple training, job search, and adult-education programs.
- Provide participants gas cards, bus passes, and other supportive services to overcome barriers to employment, such as childcare or lack of transportation.
- Develop training and development strategies that lead to fruitful careers with long-term economic security and self-sufficiency.
- Develop replicable and sustainable programs responsive to California’s changing economy.

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Additionally, the Local Boards will build partnerships with adult education and human service programs, community-based organizations that serve immigrant communities, and other workforce development partners to create an infrastructure that streamlines services, shares case management responsibilities, and improves participant successes in achieving careers. Their anticipated strategies will include pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, and other work-based training.

Some of the targeted industries the workers will train for include:

- Business services
- Construction
- Healthcare
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Transportation

Funding was provided in accordance with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and administered by the EDD and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

For more information about the Local Boards and their programs, please refer to the table below for their contact information.

<b>Local Board</b>	<b>Counties Served</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Madera County Workforce Investment Corporation	Madera	\$300,000	Tracie Scott-Contreras 559-662-4589 tscott-contreras@maderaworkforce.org
North Central Counties Consortium	Colusa Glenn Sutter Yuba	\$350,000	Cindy Newton 530-751-8202 cnewton@ncen.org
San Joaquin County Workforce Development Board	San Joaquin	\$350,000	Alfredo Mendoza 209-468-3651 amendoza@sjcworknet.org
Workforce Development Board of Ventura County	Ventura	\$350,000	Rebecca Evans 805-289-8127 rebecca.evans@ventura.org

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