



## N E W S R E L E A S E

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### **\$700,000 in state grants to help 135 at-risk Sacramento and San Diego youths find high-wage jobs in high-demand industries**

**Sacramento** – The Labor and Workforce Development Agency's (LWDA) Employment Development Department (EDD) and California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB) awarded two Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grants totaling \$700,000 to help 135 at-risk young people transition from foster care, probation and disability programs into high-wage jobs in high-demand industries in the Sacramento and San Diego areas.

"These grants enable local agencies in each of the two counties to help young people overcome severe barriers to employment," said LWDA Secretary Victoria Bradshaw. "Organizations such as the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA) and the San Diego Imperial Counties Labor Council provide programs in employment, academic and social services designed specifically for young people who might not otherwise have an opportunity in life."

In the San Diego area, nearly half of the former foster care children did not finish high school and nearly 40 percent were homeless by the time they were 20, according to a study done in 2002. According to SETA, in Sacramento County, an average of 15,000 youths were on probation, in foster care or in special education during the year 2005.

The Sacramento Employment and Training Agency will receive \$350,000 in WIA funds and will provide matching funds of \$110,000 to provide employment, academic and social services to 25 students and 65 youths who are no longer in school. The Sacramento Works Youth Navigator program will serve youths with disabilities, former and current foster youth, and youth on probation targeting industries including construction, healthcare and biotechnology, among others.

The San Diego Imperial Counties Labor Council will receive \$350,000 in WIA funds and will provide matching funds of \$282,100 to prepare 45 out-of-school youths, primarily former foster care children, for apprenticeship programs leading to jobs in utilities, communications, defense, transportation and manufacturing. The project will serve inner city San Diego youth 18 to 21 years of age, most of whom are kids who have aged out of the formal foster care system.

These services will be provided with WIA funds drawn from the Governor's 15 Percent portion of the federal Workforce Investment Act. The California Labor and Workforce Development Agency's Employment Development Department exercises oversight authority for the funds and has worked in coordination with the California Workforce Investment Board in providing these grant opportunities.

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