

Bridges to Success 2009/10
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act/Workforce Investment Act funds

Award List and Project Summaries

On April 26, 2010, grants were awarded to seven organizations under the Bridges to Success Solicitation for Proposals. Project descriptions, award amount, and contact information are listed below. Award decisions are final.

Applicant Name	County	Award Amount
Imperial County Workforce Investment Board	Imperial	\$500,000
Merced County Department of Workforce Investment	Merced	\$499,855
Richmond City Workforce Investment Board	Contra Costa	\$500,000
San Diego Workforce Partnership	San Diego	\$500,000
San Francisco Department of Economic & Workforce Development	San Francisco	\$500,000
South Bay Workforce Investment Board	Los Angeles	\$500,000
Stanislaus County Alliance Worknet	Stanislaus	\$500,000
Total		\$3,499,855

Imperial County Workforce Investment Board
2695 South 4th Street, Bldg. D
El Centro, CA 92243

Contact:

Sam Couchman
(760) 337-5007

Award Amount: \$500,000

Industry of Focus: Allied Health industry will be the focus of this grant. Our Bridges to Success program will include linkages to real life work and a Health Career Pathway program. Participants will be enrolled in one of six allied health care careers that include: Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA), Home Health Aide (HHA), Dental Technician, Pharmacy Technician, Medical Assistant and Medical Front and Back Office Clerk.

Targeted Participants Served: The program will serve 110 at-risk low income youth with barriers between the ages of 16 and 18 years.

Key Partner Highlights: Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE) Alternative Education, will provide staff, probation officer support, office and classroom space; and Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program (IVROP) will provide training, case management, psycho-social support. Additionally, three (3) IVROP projects ACE, TOY, & My Future Matters will provide summer employment, referrals and presentations; Center for Family Solutions will provide classes in anger management and conflict resolution; San Diego State University (SDSU) will provide training; local employers will provide work sites for the summer employment and training sites for those enrolled in allied health training.

Project Description: This project will focus on and address the needs of at-risk youth interested in a career in the Allied Health arena. To support youth in their career area of interest, they will be provided with customized classroom academic instruction in STEM that will include relevant lessons within the medical field in the areas of Science and Mathematics. To help ensure their success, youth will also be provided with Life Skills classes and academic counseling to help address their psycho-social needs. These support mechanisms will all be used to better assist youth in their positive transition to enrollment in one of the six allied health career training programs. A paid summer youth program will be used by the youth to help draw connections between their academic learning and real world application of skills.

Proposed Outcomes: Of the 110 participants, 74 will be placed in employment, education or training. This includes 50 students enrolled in career technical training, 12 in postsecondary education and 12 in unsubsidized employment. This represents 67% of the participants, more than double the state standard. Ninety participants, or 82%, will receive a high school diploma, GED or complete an industry-identified soft skills program. This nearly triples the state standard of 30%. Of the 50 students entering career technical training, 30 youth or (60%) will show literacy/numeracy gains and 40 or (80%) will be retained or returned to secondary school.

Merced County Department of Workforce Investment
1880 Wardrobe Avenue
Merced, CA 95341

Contact:

Brian Cutler
(209) 724-2028

Award Amount: \$499,855

Industry of Focus: Allied Health and Skilled Trades (Automotive)

Targeted Participants Served: 100 WIA eligible 16-18 year old in-school youth needing assistance to complete school.

Key Partner Highlights: The Merced County Workforce Investment Board (MCWIB) will partner with Merced County Office of Education Regional Occupational Program (ROP). Local allied health and automotive service businesses will provide supervised work experience.

Project Description: The proposed project will serve 100 students, 16-18 years of age who will be currently enrolled in Merced County's ROP or will be registered to begin ROP courses in the fall of 2010. Participants will receive training in industry-identified soft skills, defined as training that results in participant achieving basic traits and skills including problem solving, interpersonal abilities, work ethics and leadership. Youth will be provided up to 192 hours of paid work-experience combined with weekly job-specific classroom, shop or laboratory training in allied health or automotive services. WIA supportive services will be provided throughout the grant.

Proposed Outcomes: At least 70% will return to school; be on track to graduate; and earn industry recognized certificates.

Richmond City Workforce Investment Board
330 25th Street
Richmond, CA 94804

Contact:

Sal Vaca
(510) 307-8006

Award Amount: \$500,000

Industry of Focus: Allied Health, Skilled Trades, Environmental Services, Information Technology

Targeted Participants Served: STEP UP will serve a total of 200 youth ages 16 to 18 residing in West Contra Costa County who are in danger of school failure. Of this population, 170 will be in-school youth, and 30 will be out-of-school. Participants will meet at least one of the criteria identified in the RFP, e.g. foster youth, youth of incarcerated parents, having insufficient credits for graduation, etc.

Key Partner Highlights: A key feature of the project includes a regional partnership with the Contra Costa Workforce Development Board, along with the West Contra Costa Unified School District, and the Contra County Office of Education. Employers include Kaiser Hospital, Doctors Hospital, John Muir Health, City of Richmond Public Works, the Contra Costa County Housing Authority, the Contra Costa Water District, and the Richmond Housing Authority. Participating CBOs include the RYSE Youth Center, the North Richmond Young Adult Empowerment Center, the Watershed Project, Urban Creeks Council, the Lawrence Hall of Science, Rising Sun Energy Services and the Partnership for Children and Youth.

Project Description: The STEP UP initiative will offer an innovative dropout prevention program that includes a summer paid work experience in the fields of allied health, skilled trades, information technology and environmental restoration, with linkages to prior and subsequent school-based learning. STEM fields that will be addressed by the project include the biological sciences, mathematics, computer engineering, and environmental science. Intensive case management for all participants, including the development of an Individual Service Strategy (ISS), will employ a focused transition strategy for each youth from their summer work to their next education, training or employment experience.

Proposed Outcome: STEP UP proposes to achieve the following outcomes:

- 1) 60 youth, or 30% of participants, will be placed in employment, education or training
- 2) 60 youth, or 30% of participants, will gain a recognized certificate, diploma or degree
- 3) 100 youth, or 50% of participants, will achieve gains in literacy and numeracy
- 4) 120 youth, or 60% of participants, will be retained in secondary school or return to secondary school for at least one semester.

San Diego Workforce Partnership
3910 University Avenue, Suite 400
San Diego, CA 92105

Contact:

Margie de Ruyter
(619) 228-2972

Award Amount: \$500,000

Industry of Focus: Allied Health – (1) Certified Nurse Assistant, (2) Phlebotomy Technician

Targeted Participants Served: 150 Youth in-school youth ages 16-18 attending Health Sciences High & Middle College. Youth served will be either basic skills and credit deficient for high school graduation, foster youth and youthful offender.

Key Partner Highlights: Health Science High & Middle College (HSHMC), Mesa College-San Diego Community College District Educational Cultural Complex-San DiegoSharp Healthcare

Project Description: The SDWP, in collaboration with HSHMC, will enroll 150 students from the City Heights region of San Diego into the Bridges to Success Career Pathways Program. This program will allow the students to complete their high school diploma and/or earn a license in an allied health field, while also providing them with a paid summer internship opportunity in the health care setting. City Heights students face many barriers including high poverty, increasing juvenile crime rate, and little in family support. The Workforce Partnership and HSHMC are located in the heart of City Heights and in the same building. This allows for a simplified outreach and recruitment effort in order to positively impact the success of school-to-career pathways. With the implementation of our summer jobs program and its connection to the Bridges to Success program, these students will have extended training in skill development, summer classes that link content with careers, individual tutors to pass the SCSEE, as well as a specific focus on increasing knowledge in STEM fields. HSHMC students, who are 100% deficient in basic skills in need for graduation or attaining a GED, will also increase their job readiness skills and be provided with academic recovery teachers and guidance counselors for support and case management. HSHMC also has a direct link in allied healthcare as industry partners with Sharp Healthcare, SDSU Community Living, SC Community College District (Mesa College), and Neighborhood House where the students complete in-school internships and take college courses at no cost. With this program, at least 60 students will become Certified Nursing Assistants and 36 will become certified phlebotomists, which provides entry level access to jobs in high demand. This program provides high-risk students paid summer employment in the healthcare industry, while also leveraging pre-existing partnerships in order to bridge connections between academic coursework and career pathways.

Proposed Outcomes:

60 youth will attain a Certified Nursing Assistant certification
36 youth will attain Phlebotomy Technician Certification
75 will attain a high school diploma

**San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development
50 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102**

Contact:

Rhonda Simmons
(415) 581-2335

Award Amount: \$500,000

Industry of Focus: Health, Construction, Digital Media and Computer Networking.

Targeted Participants Served: The San Francisco Bridges to Success (SFBTS) project will serve low-income youth between the ages of 16 and 18, who meet one or more of the following criteria: out-of-school; youth not on-track to graduate, foster youth; youth offender; youth with disability. Additionally, youth will have at least one of the following criteria: insufficient credits for graduation; deficient in basic skills; in need of a GED or high school completion; or has attendance or truancy issues.

Key Partner Highlights: The San Francisco Unified School District, the Japanese Community Youth Council (JCYC), which currently serves as the lead agency for several of San Francisco's major youth employment training initiatives such as the Mayor's Youth Employment and Education Program, SF YouthWorks, and the Summer Youth Employment Program. In addition, three CBO direct service partners who each have expertise serving targeted youth: Community Youth Center (CYC), Hunter Point Family (HPF), and Jewish Vocational Service (JVS), have been selected to implement SFBTS.

Project Description: SFBTS will utilize a service model that blends academic skills support and workforce development to promote school achievement and highlight the relevance of education in accessing career opportunities. Services will include: academic and work-readiness assessments, Individualize Service Strategy (ISS) planning, academic and workforce skills enhancement, Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics (STEM) related work experience, school reengagement support, and career pathway development.

Proposed Outcomes:

250 youth to receive work experience and academic enrichment services
50 out-of-school youth to re-engage with education. 40 to complete high school diploma or GED
150 youth to transition to year-round education and/or workforce development services
25 youth to enroll in CityBuild Academy (Construction Pre-Apprenticeship)
25 youth to enroll in TrainGreenSF Academy
50 youth to enroll in Health Sector Academy or Health Sector Bridge Program (pre-Academy)
30% placed in employment, education or training
50% receive recognized certificate/diploma/degree
50% will increase literacy/numeracy
75% retained or returned to school
Industry of Focus: Information Sector

South Bay Workforce Investment Board
11539 Hawthorne Blvd., 5th Floor
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Contact:

Jan Vogel
(310) 970-7700

Award Amount: \$500,000

Industry of Focus: Engineering and Biotechnology (includes Medical and Allied Health)

Targeted Participants Served: 100 in-school youth, 16 - 18 years of age who are at high risk of gang affiliation/involvement, or face multiple barriers that prevent them from assimilating into mainstream society.

Key Partner Highlights: Centinela Valley Union High School District (Lawndale High School - Biotechnology Academy and Hawthorne High School - School of Engineering): Participating Companies include Kaiser Permanente, Designed Metal Connections, Advance Paper Box Co, H.H. Hiatt Furniture Co., Axminster Medical Group, The Children's Dental Center, Eldorado Community Services, Golden State Water Company, West Basin Municipal Water Company. Centinela Youth Services is a community partner.

Project Description: The South Bay Workforce Investment Board's Bridges to STEM Success Project will prepare 100 high school students enrolled in the Hawthorne High School - School of Engineering and the Lawndale High School - Biotechnology Academy to enter and succeed in STEM careers. The schools will utilize the Project Lead the Way STEM curriculum to train students with pre-requisite skills in science, math and technology and a capstone course that will link rigorous academic instruction with relevant summer work experience provided by West Basin Municipal Water District, Designed Metal Connections, Advanced Paper Box Company, Kaiser Permanente, Axminster Medical Group, The Children's Dental Center and others. Summer employment will provide relevant, hands-on training in manufacturing, engineering and allied health so that students make the connection between what is taught in the classroom and what is required in the workplace. At completion of the project students will be equipped to succeed in post-secondary education and advanced training and to enter and advance in STEM occupations. The Bridges to STEM Success Project is built upon a successful fifteen year partnership between the SBWIB and the participating schools and businesses.

Proposed Outcomes: Out of 100 participants, 50 will achieve placement in Employment, Education or Training; 50 will attain a recognized Certificate/Diploma/Degree and 50 will Retain or Return to Secondary School. The Bridges to STEM Success project will assist students in achieving success in school and position students for economic self-sufficiency through high wage careers in STEM fields.

Stanislaus County Alliance Worknet
251 E. Hackett Road
Modesto, CA 95358

Contact:

Jeff Rowe
(209) 558-2150

Award Amount: \$500,000

Industry of Focus: Allied Health (Paramedics/EMT) and Skilled Trades (Manufacturing/Welding)

Targeted Participants Served: 16-18 year olds demonstrating the characteristics defining an at-risk youth per WIA eligibility requirements, as well as those of the Bridges to Success Program.

Key Partner Highlights: Ceres Unified School District, Project YES, Ceres Adult School, Modesto Junior College, Cal-Trade Welding, Modesto Technical Institute, Kaplan College, Abrams College, San Joaquin Valley College, San Joaquin Delta College, Merced Community College, and California State University Stanislaus.

Project Description: The Stanislaus County Worknet Alliance is proposing to partner with Project YES (a Ceres Unified School District based program) to provide the Bridges to Success Program to targeted youth residing in Stanislaus County. Project YES offers its clients many program features that include: a comprehensive resource center model, employability skills classes and seminars, parent involvement, mentoring, training opportunities, supportive services, incentives for achievement, and leadership building opportunities. Project YES also provides an objective assessment of the academic levels, skill levels, and service needs of each participant through a comprehensive assessment process. Through this proposed program, in-school youth will receive case management, academic tutoring, college and career awareness and supportive services to ensure students are "on-track" to graduate. The out-of-school youth participating in this program will be concurrently enrolled in Project YES, under the existing, comprehensive and innovative youth employment services program that has been successfully implemented for the past six years. All participating youth will engage in summer employment opportunities and will continue to receive services, training and education to assist each in meeting their specified education and employment goals as indicated in their Individual Service Strategy (ISS) plan. The unique feature of Project YES, is the high level of youth engagement in all aspects of the program. Youth actively participate in the development of their ISS, serve as peer mentors, collaborate and develop a monthly program newsletter, and provide feedback on specialized program activities and guest speakers. The success of the Project YES program is also attributed to the positive working relationships established with local employers, training providers, community based organizations and educational entities.

Proposed Outcomes: Of the 80 youth to be enrolled, 80% will enter and participate in summer employment. Each youth participant will receive academic support and tutoring services. Participants that exit will be provided support during follow-up. 32 participants will be concurrently enrolled in the existing Project YES program. 15 youth will attain a high school diploma or GED. 48 youth will be retained in secondary education. 32 youth will transition to post-secondary training/education. 20 out-of-school youth, that are basic skills deficient, will attain literacy and numeracy gains.