

N E W S R E L E A S E

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More Than \$3 Million in Stimulus Funds Helps Young Californians Stay in School and Secure Careers

SACRAMENTO – More than \$3.4 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funds will assist nearly 1,000 high school students in seven California counties work toward securing long-term productive careers.

“Bridges to Success offers at-risk youth a summer program that shows them the vital link between school work and real-life job experience,” said Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. “The program will provide them with the tools they need to stay in school and prepare them for bright futures in occupations that pay well and offer the opportunity to move up the career ladder.”

“Reducing the dropout rate is one of my top priorities and critical to California’s future economic success,” said Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D–Sacramento). “Congratulations to the recipients of these funds that will help local workforce investment boards, employers, and educators team up to show at risk students the link between school and real life careers. I look forward to seeing firsthand the great results of this innovative use of precious federal dollars.”

Local agencies in Contra Costa, Merced, San Francisco, Stanislaus, San Diego, Imperial and Los Angeles counties will receive funding for projects designed to help nearly 1,000 at-risk youth understand the link between their school work and real life work, with special emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The youths will learn how to move from paid summer positions to the next steps in education, training and employment experience. Participants will improve the academic skills they need to stay in secondary school and graduate, to achieve recognized certificates, diplomas or degrees, and to be placed in jobs, education or training programs.

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“We are thrilled to be partnering with the State and Contra Costa County to invest in the most at-risk and in-risk, academically-challenged youth in our region,” said Sal Vaca, Executive Director of the City of Richmond’s Department of Employment and Training. “This opportunity fits perfectly with the primary mission of all of the partners on the grant when it comes to this population of youth. Our purpose is to provide them with the best academic support, work experience, training and placement available. This grant will make it possible for us to meet these goals in an unprecedented collaboration.”

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has authorized funding for these grants to be drawn from the Governor’s 15 percent Discretionary Workforce Investment Act under the administrative authority of the state Employment Development Department, as directed by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

Further information on the “Bridges to Success” funding is available online at:
http://www.edd.ca.gov/Jobs_and_Training/WDSFP_Workforce_Development_Solicitations_for_Proposals.htm

The following agencies will each receive an award:

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

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