

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**State grant will provide job training and placement to 142 laid-off workers  
in Mendocino County**

**SACRAMENTO** – A \$781,000 grant from the state Employment Development Department (EDD) will help retrain 142 workers who lost their jobs when many local businesses in Mendocino County closed or downsized.

Substantial regional layoffs in government, school districts, manufacturing, retail, and distribution have caused unemployment in the area to spike.

“During the past year, Mendocino County has experienced a number of business closures and layoffs, severely depressing the local economy,” said EDD Chief Deputy Director Pam Harris. “This funding will serve as a ray of hope for this region by giving the local communities the tools necessary to retrain unemployed workers for high wage, high skill jobs.”

The grant, awarded to the Mendocino County Workforce Investment Board, will provide laid-off workers with career counseling, skills preparation, job search assistance, and training.

By collaborating with 17 agencies in Mendocino County, participants will have a better chance of gaining the necessary skills to obtain jobs in growing industries like diversified health care, building and systems construction and maintenance, specialty agriculture, food and beverages, investment support services, management and innovation services, and manufacturing.

Funding for the program comes from the Governor’s 25 percent portion of Dislocated Worker Funds from Title I of the federal Workforce Investment Act and is under the administrative authority of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency’s EDD.

For more information about this project, please contact Debra Donelson, Mendocino County Workforce Investment Board at (707) 467-5590.

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