

N E W S R E L E A S E

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EDD awards \$560,000 to continue assistance to North Bay area workers and businesses impacted by 2017 wildfires

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) announced today it has awarded the Workforce Alliance of the North Bay (WANB) \$560,000 for continued outreach and employment services to local businesses and 350 dislocated workers impacted by multiple wildfires in 2017 that burned through Lake, Mendocino, and Napa counties.

“Through the EDD, California is committed to supporting the long-term recovery efforts of those who have suffered greatly due to recurring, destructive wildfires,” said Acting EDD Director Sharon Hilliard. “These funds will provide essential job training and reemployment assistance to affected workers, and layoff prevention services to help impacted local businesses.”

WANB will use these funds to provide displaced workers with re-employment services including career counseling, skills assessments, resumé and interview workshops, mentoring, employer-recruitment assistance, job-training opportunities, and job searches. Additionally, other supportive services may include childcare, transportation, temporary housing, and more.

Workshops and classroom-based instruction will be applied towards developing area workers’ skills to target industries identified as having the greatest potential for future growth and stability in the region, which include hospitality and healthcare. WANB will also assist local businesses with talent recruitment and marketing of job openings.

The 2017 California wildfires were among the deadliest fire events in state history killing several dozen people and burning thousands of structures across hundreds of thousands of acres. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared the counties of Napa, Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino eligible for emergency federal assistance. Although WANB immediately requested and received additional assistance funds in the wake of the 2017 wildfires, the region’s recovery was hampered as the North Bay area was again struck by smaller wildfires in 2018.

(more)

Funding for this grant was provided through discretionary funds made available to Governor Gavin Newsom 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 WANB and its programs, contact Executive Director Bruce Wilson at 1-707-337-5292.

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