

N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Loree Levy
Aubrey Henry
916-654-9029

Date: November 1, 2021

News Release No.: 21-62

EDD awards \$500,000 to assist workers and businesses impacted by the Dixie wildfire in Lassen and Plumas counties

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) announced today it has awarded \$500,000 to the Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC) to conduct outreach and provide employment-related services in Lassen and Plumas counties to assist local businesses and 50 dislocated workers impacted by the 2021 Dixie wildfire.

“These funds will create local job opportunities while also supporting the ongoing recovery efforts from the devastating effects of the wildfire,” said EDD Director Rita Saenz.

NoRTEC, will provide the employment services in partnership with the Alliance for Workforce Development and county, state, and federal entities. The grant funding will allow this partnership to offer impacted workers a variety of services including career counseling, skills assessments, resume and interview workshops, mentoring, job searches, and on-the-job training. Additional supportive services may include childcare, transportation, and temporary housing. NoRTEC will also assist local businesses with talent recruitment and marketing job openings.

A temporary job creation project will be implemented to address the immediate need for infrastructure repair and recovery by creating short-term jobs to assist with fire damage cleanup. These activities may include road and ditch repair, debris removal, trail repair, watershed clean up and restoration, water line repair, and debris removal.

NoRTEC will also work with workforce partners, along with state and federal government entities, to facilitate humanitarian efforts, including the distribution of food, water, and clothing. The group will reach out to local employers to provide disaster relief information and offer employee recruitment and retention assistance.

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 these programs, contact Terrienne Brown, Assistant Director NoRTEC, at 530-892-9600.

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