

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**EDD awards \$3.25 million in job funds for 700 workers affected by
Sonoma County wildfires**

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) announced it has awarded the Sonoma County Workforce Development Board \$3.25 million in emergency job funds to help 700 people get back to work following the October wildfires.

“Last fall’s wildfires severely impacted Sonoma’s workforce and economy,” said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning. “These funds will help those who were affected by the fires secure good jobs and help in the community’s recovery.”

The \$3.25 million in emergency funds will support the Sonoma County Job Link, the local America’s Job Center of California, in addressing the workforce needs of impacted businesses and workers who lost their jobs. Representatives will assist job seekers with initial job-search preparation, career counseling, skills assessments, resume and interview workshops, mentoring, recruitment assistance, training and other support services.

The funding supports training that leads to jobs with sustainable wages and addresses the fires’ destruction of thousands of structures and businesses, including hotels, retail establishments, restaurants, wineries, and homes and offices of self-employed business owners. The employment services will focus on education and training in construction, healthcare, administrative support, retail and sales.

Funding for this grant is made available through the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Governor’s discretionary funds and is under the administrative authority of EDD and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

More information on Sonoma County Job Link and its programs is available at (707) 565-5550.

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