

N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Loree Levy
Aubrey Henry
916-654-9029

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**EDD receives \$3.9 million to combat opioid crisis with
job services and employment opportunities**

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) announced today that it has received a \$3.9 million National Health Emergency Dislocated Worker Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to address the opioid crisis. The funding will help provide employment services to 110 people – including temporary jobs for 54 individuals – who have been affected by opioid abuse, addiction or overdose, or are unemployed in some of the areas hardest hit by the crisis.

“These job funds will support job services and employment opportunities for California residents who have been adversely affected by the opioid epidemic,” said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning. “By connecting people in recovery and the unemployed with jobs in professions that address substance abuse, this program will help to address the economic effects of the opioid crisis in California communities.”

EDD is awarding the grant funding to the Humboldt County Workforce Development Board, Merced County Workforce Development Board and Mother Lode Workforce Development Board to provide employment services and temporary jobs to eligible individuals. These workforce development boards serve nine counties that have among the highest opioid overdose rates in the state, including Humboldt, Merced, Kern, Inyo, Mono, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa and Tuolumne counties.

Employment services will focus on preparing individuals for careers in healthcare professions related to substance abuse treatment and prevention, and alternative pain management. Select individuals will be placed in temporary jobs in peer support, including as intake and coordination aides and peer recovery navigators. These temporary workers will also conduct outreach on available recovery assistance, serve on opioid-related service committees and connect individuals to substance abuse recovery services.

(more)

In October 2017, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared the opioid crisis a national public health emergency, enabling EDD to request this funding. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act dislocated worker grants temporarily expand the capacity of state and local workforce development programs to respond to large, unexpected events that cause significant job losses. Research on regional opioid abuse in California has shown that in many cases, a higher concentration of opioid abuse in regional populations correlates with a reduction of labor force participation rates and an increase in unemployment rates.

EDD recommends that all individuals interested in receiving employment assistance register at local [America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM](#) locations, which also offer no-fee employment services and training resources.

For more information on the workforce development boards administering this program, please contact the following:

- Humboldt County Workforce Development Board interim executive director Allison Tans at (707) 476-4806.
- Merced County Workforce Development Board director David Mirrione at (209) 724-2007.
- Mother Lode Workforce Development Board executive director Dave Thoeny at (209) 588-1150.

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