

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Date: November 14, 2019

News Release No.: 19-141

**EDD awards \$304,500 in emergency additional assistance funding to help workers laid off due to Ridgecrest earthquakes**

**SACRAMENTO** – Workers in Kern and San Bernardino counties who remain unemployed due to the Ridgecrest earthquakes in July will receive assistance and employment services due to \$304,500 in emergency additional assistance funding awarded today by the California Employment Development Department (EDD).

“Natural disasters, such as earthquakes, can have a devastating effect on local workforces,” said EDD Director, Patrick W. Henning. “These funds will help train and reemploy local workers that were laid-off due to the earthquakes, and assist affected local employers in meeting their staffing needs.”

The emergency additional assistance funds were awarded to the Kern/Inyo/Mono Workforce Development Board to assess the needs of the affected individuals and regional businesses, and determine effective strategies to assist them. Programs and services that may be funded through the grant include staffing, job fairs, recruitments, and on-the-job training.

Training programs will provide affected workers with instruction in the locally in-demand career fields of construction, retail, hospitality, business administration, child development, computer information systems, web development, welding, and renewable energy. Programs to provide workers with temporary and transitional short-term employment and paid work experience will also be considered.

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 the Kern/Inyo/Mono Workforce Development Board and its programs, contact Assistant County Administrative Officer, Teresa Hitchcock at (661) 336-6956.

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