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Labor & Workforce Development Agency

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Construction Workers Displaced by Housing Slump Eligible for Retraining Through \$4.5 Million in State Grants

SACRAMENTO – Residential construction workers and others who have been laid off as a result of the housing slump will get help through nearly \$4.5 million in state employment retraining program grants announced today by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency's Employment Development Department.

The grants are being awarded to cities and organizations that provide employment and training services for out-of-work individuals, especially those in areas hard hit by the downturn in residential housing.

"These grants are part of the Governor's commitment to keep the economy moving by working with private-sector partners to help workers refocus their skills and move quickly into areas of the construction industry that are expanding," said Victoria Bradshaw, Labor and Workforce Development Agency Secretary.

The grant awardees will provide "bridge" training programs that focus on moving workers laid off from residential construction into jobs requiring similar skills in commercial construction and public works projects, many financed by the \$42 billion in infrastructure bonds approved by voters last year.

According to statistics provided by the Employment Development Department (EDD), Labor Market Information Division, approximately 59,000 jobs were lost in California in the construction industry from December 2006 to December 2007. Most of the job losses were concentrated in the residential housing sector.

"The housing slump put many skilled Californians out of work," Bradshaw said. "However, with these grants we can continue to use their talents to rebuild our schools, fix our levees and improve our transportation system."

In addition to the grants announced today, \$5 million in funding through the Employment Training Panel will be directed to retrain workers in the residential construction sector. This more specialized training will refine existing workers' skills

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to job-specific requirements of a new employer, or assist in more significant retraining to move unemployed workers into new industry sectors or occupations.

The Governor has taken a number of actions to stimulate various jobs sectors and protect California's economy overall this year, including:

Housing/Mortgages:

- [Awarded \\$73 million for affordable housing projects](#) in Proposition 1C and Proposition 46 funds to help more than 1,600 California families rent or purchase affordable housing
- [Announced \\$69.5 million in permanent low-interest loans](#) from the Proposition 1C housing bonds to jumpstart 14 affordable multi-family projects up and down the state, helping more than 1,000 California families and individuals realize the dream of an affordable rental home
- [Awarded \\$5.6 million](#) to help displaced mortgage and banking workers find new jobs

Ports/Transit:

- [Announced \\$394 million](#) in Proposition 1B bond funding for 106 transit projects statewide
- [Announced \\$40 million](#) for port security from Proposition 1B bond funding

Veterans:

- [Awarded more than \\$6 million in grants](#) to help more than 1,500 newly discharged veterans as they return to the civilian workforce

Through a competitive solicitations process, the EDD awarded grants to nine agencies in areas affected by the economic slowdown. Funding for the grants is drawn from the Governor's 15 Percent portion of the federal Workforce Investment Act and is under the administrative authority of the State Labor and Workforce Development Agency's EDD.

Below is the list of Awardees:

Awardees	County	WIA 15 Percent Request
District Council 16 Northern California Journeymen & Apprentice Training Trust Fund	Alameda	\$500,000
Los Angeles City Community Development Department	Los Angeles	\$500,000
North Central Counties Consortium	Sutter	\$500,000
Northern California Teamster Apprentice Training	Sacramento	\$500,000
Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services	Los Angeles	\$500,000
Richmond City/Richmond WORKS	Contra Costa	\$500,000
Riverside County Economic Development Agency	Riverside	\$466,806
Sacramento Employment and Training Agency	Sacramento	\$500,000
Santa Monica College	Los Angeles	\$500,000
Total Funding		\$4,466,806

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