



## Back2Work is Working Accelerating Economic Inclusion Across California

The Back 2 Work (B2W) program, an innovative partnership with Butte County Office of Education and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), has been operating a high-impact employment initiative since 2009 that contracts with employment social enterprises and nonprofit organizations to connect individuals overcoming barriers to employment with jobs, training, and support.

Motivated individuals who have experienced homelessness, those who've had justice system involvement, opportunity youth, and veterans are cleaning California's highways – a benefit to everyone – while earning an income, gaining valuable work experience, and accessing support for their economic mobility so they can stabilize their lives and interrupt what can otherwise become costly cycles of joblessness, homelessness, and incarceration.

Each year, Caltrans funds the B2W program which has expanded to over 100 crews in 40 counties in California, serving more than 6,400 people annually.

**6,409**

Total People Served

**2,302**

Active Participants

## CRUCIAL BUDGETING FOR CRUCIAL BENEFITS

Over the last three years, the B2W program has received critical funding from the Clean California Initiative, totaling **\$50 million annually**, to expand the program. With the current state budget crisis, we want to ensure that this funding is reappropriated to continue to fuel this innovative partnership.



### SOCIAL

Unlocks a pool of talent & creates meaningful transitional job opportunities for Californians who are facing housing & food insecurity

Reduces recidivism by way of stable work opportunities, allowing returning citizens to participate in the workforce



### INDIVIDUAL

Promotes financial inclusion among participants

Enhances well-being & confidence among participants

Creates a support network to engage former participant

Develops essential job skills creating access to career pathways



### ENVIRONMENTAL

Beautifies California's transportation network in underserved, rural & urban communities

Fosters a cultural shift of shared responsibility & community pride while improving the environment, health & safety



### FINANCIAL

Per Caltrans, CCI will create 10-11K jobs over the course of the first 3 years

Improves aesthetics of public spaces affecting property values, attracting more business & visitors

### About Clean California Initiative

The Clean California Initiative (CCI) aims to remove litter, create jobs, and beautify the state, significantly reducing litter. It has created job opportunities for Californians re-entering society after experiencing employment barriers, like justice system involvement, aligning with Governor Newsom's priorities by addressing environmental concerns, creating job opportunities, and beautifying the local environment, contributing to a cleaner, more inviting, and united California.

# An Investment that Pays Back in Dividends

# Back2work Invests \$9k Per Person

annually to interrupt cycles of incarceration and/or homelessness v. \$106,000 in taxpayer costs to incarcerate one individual for a year and state spending of \$42,000 per year per person to address homelessness (and local jurisdictions likely double that).



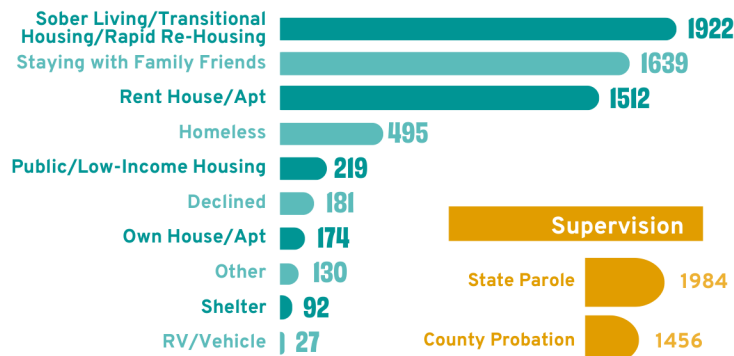
## WHO BACK2WORK SERVES

Back2Work not only cleans and beautifies California highways, but also tackles unemployment among adults in California striving to break through employment barriers often caused and compounded by pervasive and systemic inequities embedded in our systems.

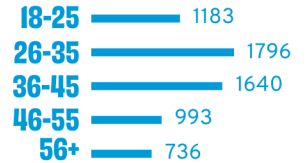
### Education



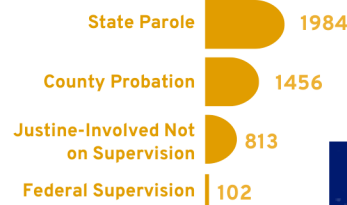
### Living Situation



### Age Range



### Supervision



## IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

While the litter abatement program itself offers transitional jobs, this immediate employment directly leads to other permanent opportunities including full-time employment at Caltrans.

Since March 2022, **57 participants** have been hired on full-time at Caltrans, and we expect the number to continue growing.

### IMPACT ON INDIVIDUAL

**1,497**

Education & Employment Exits

### COMMUNITY IMPACT

**2,345,377**

Total Bags

**4,032**

Statewide Daily Average Bag Pickup

## PARTNERSHIPS THAT STRENGTHEN OUTCOMES

Compared to other programs of similar size and scope, the B2Work program's collaborative partnerships approach allows for the creation of a wrap-around service model for participants. As a program partner, REDF's work focuses on creating pathways to economic mobility for B2W participants including upskilling and apprenticeships, providing training, technical assistance, and relationship management to participating employment social enterprises, and strengthening the understanding and impact of the B2W program.

