



**Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
Employment Social Enterprise PY 2024-25
Award List and Project Summaries**

On June 2, 2025, \$9,999,199.53 of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Title I Governor's Discretionary funds were awarded to six organizations under the Employment Social Enterprise Program (ESE) for Program Year (PY) 2024-25 Solicitation for Proposals (SFP). Awardee project list and project summaries are listed below. Funding decisions are final.

Award List

Applicant Name	County	Award
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fresno	Fresno, Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Kings, Tulare, Kern, and Inyo	\$1,910,000.00
Inland Southern California 211+	Riverside and San Bernadino	\$1,730,461.91
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment	Los Angeles	\$1,910,000.00
Plan of Action	Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura	\$833,829.60
Stanislaus Equity Partners	Merced, San Joaquin and Stanislaus	\$1,910,000.00
The Economic Development Corporation Serving Fresno County	Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare	\$1,704,908.02

Project Summaries

Applicant	Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fresno 149 N. Fulton Street Fresno, CA 93701
Contact	Mackenzie Villalobos 1-559-237-0851 mvillalobos@ccdof.org
Award	\$1,910,000.00
Industry Focus	Logistics and warehousing, food service and handling, retail and customer service, office administration and clerical work, information technology and computer skills, and social services and nonprofit work.
Targeted Participants	Low-income individuals, veterans, single parents, those facing homelessness or economic instability, newcomers and refugees, long-term unemployed individuals, older workers, and English Language Learners.
Key Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supportive Service Inc.• Fresno State University• Regency Investments• Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board• SER Program• CalFresh Healthy Living
Project Description	The program is structured into four cohorts per year. Each cohort will complete a 90-day cycle, during which participants will engage in 400 hours of required workforce training while also being eligible for up to 24 additional paid hours of support services. These support services are designed to enhance participants' readiness for employment and include training and education in financial literacy, nutrition education, job coaching, and mock interviews.
Expected Outcomes	The program anticipates serving 160 participants throughout the program, with 80 participants annually and 20 per cohort—5 in Merced, 10 in Fresno, and 5 in Bakersfield. The aim is to place at least 75% of program participants into full-time or part-time employment through the ESE program. Participants will earn an average starting wage that meets or exceeds the MIT Living Wage for Fresno County. The goal is for at least 70% of participants to remain employed one year after placement.

Applicant	Inland Southern California 211+ 1835 Chicago Ave, Suite B Riverside, CA 92507
Contact	Jeannette Sepulveda 1-951-697-4705 x247 jeannette@iscuw.org
Award	\$1,730,461.91
Industry Focus	Hospitality and Leisure, Healthcare, Public Administration/Social Services.
Targeted Participants	Long-term-unemployed, opportunity youth, and justice-involved individuals.
Key Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside County-Workforce Development Department • Karma Automotive Inc. • Glen Ivy Hot Springs • Complete Coach Works • Citizens Business Bank • St. John's Community Health • Talent Sourcing Direct Inc. • Rolling Start Inc. • Family Assistance Program • Anthesis Service • The Exception • Inland SoCal United Way • Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce • Riverside City College • San Bernardino City College District • California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation- Division of Adult Parole and Operations Community Reentry Unit • Riverside County Probation Department
Project Description	<p>This project will combine classroom learning with hands-on experience in the 211-contact center in Riverside, CA. The grant term comprises eight three-month quarters with five cohorts (25 participants each).</p> <p>Participants complete comprehensive onboarding training, 12 weeks of WBL ESE employment, 2 weeks of transitional work readiness training, financial literacy workshops, mock interviews, and 12 months of ongoing follow-up. They will receive case management, individualized career planning, job coaching, job matching, job fairs, employer on-site recruitment, and supportive services to promote successful employment. WBL is subsidized at \$20/hr.</p>

**Expected
Outcomes**

The goal is for 85% of participants to complete the program and secure/retain good quality jobs in high-demand fields that offer career mobility, benefits, and higher wages. This project aims to enhance the skills and financial stability of individuals with employment barriers through WBL. Key outcomes are to 1) serve 125 participants; 2) provide skills-based training in high-demand industries, enhance job search/interview skills, and develop soft skills; 3) improve financial literacy and higher education; 4) transition 82 participants to following good jobs at higher wages; and 5) have 68 participants attain credentials.

Applicant	Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment 1055 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1475 Los Angeles, CA 90017
Contact	Johnson Ng 1-213-207-1388 jng@pacela.org
Award	\$1,910,000.00
Industry Focus	Early Childhood Education.
Targeted Participants	Long-term-unemployed individuals and English Language Learners.
Key Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PACE Employment & Workforce Development Department, TEACH-LA • California State University Los Angeles (Training) • Los Angeles Education Partnership (Training) • West Los Angeles College (Training) • Los Angeles Education Partnership (Employer) • YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley (Employer) • City of Los Angeles Economic & Workforce Development Department (Workforce Intermediary)
Project Description	Over 24 months, the project will serve 144 English Language Learner (ELL) and Long Term Unemployed (LTU) job seekers. Participants will receive comprehensive workforce development services, including individualized assessments and individual employment plans, resume writing, interview preparation, and case management. Participants will also undergo classroom training for certifications/permits, receive On-the-Job-Training (OJT), and receive critically needed wraparound and support services such as bus tokens, uniform purchases, car repairs, and mental health support. The comprehensive approach is designed to equip participants with the necessary skills and resources to secure, sustain, and advance in quality employment in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) sector.
Expected Outcomes	In total, 400 participants will be reached, 300 will attend orientation, 144 eligible participants will receive assessments and case management, 115 will enter OJT for Measurable Skills Gain, 101 will be employed by the second quarter after exit, and 95 will be used by the fourth quarter after exit. These outcomes demonstrate individual participants' progress towards successful pathways and reflect a meaningful change in the workforce system.

Applicant	Plan of Action 15050 Burbank Blvd. #35 Sherman Oaks, CA 91411
Contact	Jimmy Lifton 1-310-922-8558 jlifton@worldwidestarship.org
Award	\$833,829.60
Industry Focus	Animation and digital art, entertainment industry.
Targeted Participants	Autistic individuals.
Key Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atomic Studios • Counterpunch Studios • Oracle Sound and Video • Ken Duncan Studios • Awesome Ants Studios • Toon Boom Software
Project Description	Through the organization's Visual Arts Academy program, 30 autistic individuals will be trained to pursue careers in animation. After six months, students will transition into apprenticeships and on-the-job training with several animation studios. This will prepare students for unsubsidized employment within the animation industry and offer life skills training to assist our students in developing social skills and dealing successfully with workplace challenges.
Expected Outcomes	Thirty new students will receive training in Toon Boom software, developing skills that will prepare them for careers in the animation industry. These students will transition from training to paid apprenticeships to unsubsidized employment. They will develop social skills that will assist them in the workplace and contribute to their ability to live independently. Monthly life skills coaching sessions will remove obstacles to employment and maintain high motivation for their work.

Applicant	Stanislaus Equity Partners 1935 G Street, Suite B Modesto, CA 95354
Contact	Doris Daniel Brima 1-209-620-5121 dbrima@stanep.org
Award	\$1,910,000.00
Industry Focus	Construction and Manufacturing.
Targeted Participants	Formerly incarcerated individuals, Individuals recovering from substance abuse disorder, Young adults disconnected from education and employment, and Individuals experiencing housing insecurity.
Key Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith Home Adult Teen Challenge • R3 – Rehabilitation, Restoration & Respite • Stanislaus County Workforce Development • Stanislaus Equity Partners • Modesto Junior College • Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors • Merced County
Project Description	The Micro Home Manufacturing and Construction Training Program will provide a holistic approach to work-based learning, providing support services to participants while at the same time engaging them in job training opportunities and transitional employment that will lead to good-paying jobs. The Construction Training Program will provide hands-on training in constructing modular, energy-efficient housing units while offering workforce certifications and employment pathways. This dual-impact approach addresses the region's workforce shortages and the need for scalable, affordable housing solutions.
Expected Outcomes	Over the grant period, the program proposes to serve 50 participants. 70% of participants will complete the entire construction curriculum and demonstrate mastery of core trade skills, earning a pre-apprenticeship certificate. Within three months of program completion, 70 % of participants will secure unsubsidized employment in construction, modular home manufacturing, or a related industry. 70% percent of participants will transition to jobs with wages at or above the MIT Living Wage threshold for Stanislaus County (\$23.54 per hour).

Applicant	The Economic Development Corporation Serving Fresno County 1060 Fulton Street, 4 th Floor Fresno, CA 93721-2512
Contact	Chris Zeitz 1-617-599-5093 czeitze@fresnoedc.com
Award	\$1,704,908.02
Industry Focus	Business Services, Construction, Manufacturing, Transportation/Logistics.
Targeted Participants	Justice-Involved, Disconnected Young Adults, Disabled Workers, Older Workers (55+), Workers / Job Seekers with Significant Barriers.
Key Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Economic Development Corporation Serving Fresno County • Fresno Area Community Enterprises (ESE) • Hope Now for Youth (ESE) • Goodwill Industries of the San Joaquin Valley, Inc. (ESE) • United Way of Fresno & Madera Counties (TA) • Social Finance (TA) • Reading & Beyond (CBO) • OK Produce (Employer) • Imperial Electric (Employer) • Sierra Agra USA (Employer)
Project Description	<p>Led by the Economic Development Corporation Serving Fresno County (FCEDC), this project seeks to enhance the existing ecosystem of Employment Social Enterprises by increasing coordination between 3+ ESEs and integrating additional training, wraparound supports, and transitional employment opportunities for their participants.</p> <p>The distinguishing elements of this proposal include leveraging \$23M in funding from the FCEDC Good Jobs Challenge award to expand wraparound supports and upskilling opportunities for ESE participants. Individuals will have access to 12 community-based organizations (CBOs) and 16+ free training programs that prepare them for careers in customer service, production, truck driving, construction, auto body repair, and human resources. These occupations do not require degrees or extensive work experience yet place individuals directly into Living Wage jobs or onto a pathway to self-sufficiency.</p> <p>Additionally, the program will use EDD grant funds to contract local staffing agencies to place ESE participants into these "next step" jobs. Adapting the temp-to-hire model, these agencies will serve as the employer of record for three months of subsidized work to transition participants into full-time, unsubsidized employment at those same</p>

companies. Already, three employers have signed letters of partnership. These include OK Produce, a major food distributor operating a commercial truck driver fleet. Imperial Electric, a minority-owned construction company specializing in electric vehicle infrastructure, and Sierra Agra, a manufacturer that processes discarded produce into other food products.

**Expected
Outcomes**

The three partner ESEs will employ 90 individuals during the grant period. These individuals will earn \$17/hr. And work 20 hours/week, on average, while employed by their ESE. At least 75 individuals will be hired under the staffing agency and placed into full-time, subsidized employment with a "next step" employer partner. We target that 85% of these individuals will transition from temporary to full-time workers after three months, and 75% will retain employment after six months. Additionally, at least 26 participants will enroll in higher education or industry-recognized credentials/certificates.