



BACK 2 WORK IS WORKING

Accelerating Economic Inclusion Across California

The Back 2 Work (B2W) program, a partnership with the Butte County Office of Education and Caltrans, has been connecting individuals facing employment barriers to jobs, training, and support since 2009.

Through contracts with employment social enterprises (ESEs) and nonprofits, the program provides jobs to individuals overcoming homelessness, justice system involvement, and other barriers, while helping clean California’s highways. Participants earn income, gain valuable work experience, and access resources to improve economic mobility—helping to break persistent cycles of joblessness and incarceration. Fueled by increased investment from the Clean California Initiative (CCI) from 2021-2205, B2W grew to 100 crews across 37 counties, employing over 6,000 individuals and collecting 4.2 million bags of litter.

2,121
ACTIVE
EMPLOYEES

IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

B2W not only creates jobs and promotes cleaner highways but also serves as a pathway to full-time employment and opportunities in a range of industries.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

23K+
Total people employed since 2009

9.8M
Litter Bags Since 2009

AN INVESTMENT THAT PAYS BACK IN DIVIDENDS

Back 2 Work Invests \$9k Per Person

Providing access to full-time employment is a proven strategy to reduce recidivism and prevent homelessness. B2W invests \$9,000 per person annually in training for stable jobs. In contrast, annually CA taxpayers pay over \$133,000 per person who is incarcerated* and \$42,000 on homelessness services.†

*https://www.lao.ca.gov/PolicyAreas/CJ/6_cj_inmatecost. †<https://calmatters.org/commentary/2023/07/something-clearly-off-homelessness-spending/>



CRUCIAL BUDGETING FOR CRUCIAL BENEFITS

Since 2009, Caltrans has invested approximately \$45 million annually into B2W, with a significant expansion during CCI implementation. Continued funding is crucial for strengthening communities, building resilience, and supporting economic growth. We aim to ensure this funding is maintained to sustain this innovative partnership.

PARTNERSHIPS THAT STRENGTHEN OUTCOMES

B2W's strategic partnerships create a wraparound service model, with Redefine Alliance advancing economic mobility through upskilling, training, and support—maximizing the program's impact.

