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South Bay Workforce Investment Board receives \$488,000 for veterans employment programs



(Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

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PUBLISHED: May 29, 2019 at 12:40 pm | UPDATED: May 29, 2019 at 5:17 pm

A South Bay workforce development organization will receive nearly \$500,000 from California's employment agency to help fund vocational programs for veterans.

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board, in Hawthorne, is among 11 groups throughout California to receive a total of \$5 million for veterans' employment-related assistance programs, the state's Employment Development Department announced this week.

"EDD is proud to provide California veterans with the tools they need to transition into sustainable careers," said Patrick Henning, the state agency's director. "This funding will help train and prepare former military personnel for high-growth civilian jobs."

The South Bay agency will receive a \$488,635 grant for vocational programming for at least 100 veterans, mostly in the fields of advanced manufacturing and construction, said Jan Vogel, the board's executive director.

The remaining grants will go out to groups in Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego and Ventura counties. In total, the money will help about 1,200 veterans get jobs in growing industries, the Employment Development Department said in a statement Tuesday, May 28.

Roughly 75 percent of the veterans the grants will serve face barriers to employment, such as disabilities, homelessness, lack of education and long-term unemployment, Vogel said.

"This is very significant," Vogel added, "because we rely on special grants all the time in order to serve as many people as we can."

Vogel said the recent allocation is nearly identical to a grant from the state agency about two years ago. With that grant, the investment board served 115 veterans.

"Some we are still working with but the results were real positive," Vogel said Wednesday morning, May 29.

The South Bay organization also receives other grants to serve veterans. A few years ago, it became the first board in the country to be certified by the Department of Labor for its aerospace engineering apprenticeship program.

"This fits very well into our overall program," Vogel said.

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David Rosenfeld has been working as a professional journalist for nearly 20 years at newspapers, magazines and websites. He's covered murder trials, interviewed governors and presidential candidates and once did a flip in a biplane for a story assignment. Before joining The Daily Breeze in 2018 to cover El Segundo, Hawthorne and aerospace, he worked at The Beach Reporter in Redondo Beach. In his free time, David loves outdoor sports such as sailing, mountain biking and golfing.

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