



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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South Bay Workforce Investment Board Awarded \$1 Million Grant to Expand Apprenticeship Programs for Disadvantaged Youth

Hawthorne, CA – The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) has been awarded a \$1 million California Opportunity Youth Apprenticeship (COYA) Grant by the California Department of Industrial Relations and its Division of Apprenticeship Standards. The funding will be used to create and expand apprenticeship programs for disadvantaged youth across the region and surrounding areas.

The two-year project will leverage new and existing community partnerships to provide training and employment opportunities for targeted youth populations, including individuals from foster care, justice-involved youth, youth parents, individuals with disabilities, and those from low-income communities. The program aims to enroll 100 individuals, offering comprehensive support such as training, mentoring, career guidance, and placement into apprenticeship programs leading to employment.

Participants will have the opportunity to enter apprenticeship programs across five key sectors: advanced manufacturing (aerospace and bioscience), IT, healthcare, arts, media and entertainment, and energy. The goal is to help these young individuals gain the skills and experience needed to build sustainable careers in high-demand industries.

“This grant award highlights our long-standing success in providing disadvantaged youth access to career pathways through apprenticeships, helping them secure high-paying careers,” said SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel.

SBWIB’s apprenticeship programs are employer-driven, designed to upskill current employees while developing the future workforce pipeline. For over 41 years, SBWIB has offered no cost services to residents and businesses across the South Bay region through its four One-Stop Business and Career Centers in Inglewood, Carson, Torrance, and Gardena. Youth aged 16-24 can also access specialized services through the Inglewood and Hawthorne Teen Centers.

For more information, visit www.sbwib.org or call 310-970-7700.