



## NEWS

### ***South Bay Workforce Investment Board***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

South Bay Workforce Investment Board  
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#### **U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$5.8 Million Grant To South Bay Workforce Investment Board to Develop A Statewide Apprenticeship Hub**

**HAWTHORNE** – The South Bay Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (SBWIB) has been awarded a \$5.8 million “Apprenticeship Building America” grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to create a Registered Apprenticeship Hub to address the increasing demand for skilled professionals throughout California. The SBWIB will implement its Project called, Expanding Flexible Apprenticeship in California, with the goal of growing and expanding apprenticeship throughout the state by helping partners enroll 800 participants into registered apprenticeship programs and another 200 into pre-apprenticeships.

In collaboration with its statewide network of employers, industry associations, labor unions, intermediaries, workforce and educational entities and other partners, the SBWIB’s plan is to create apprenticeship programs that prepare candidates for high demand jobs in the Manufacturing, Healthcare, Information Technology/Cybersecurity, Arts/Media and Entertainment, and Clean Energy/Transportation sectors over a four-year period. These industries have not traditionally used Registered Apprenticeship, but have workforce needs that are common throughout the state and represent statewide workforce priorities.

“This grant award is definitely a very welcome surprise,” said SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel. “We had submitted our project for funding earlier this year, but when the initial grant awards were announced in July, we were excluded. Fortunately, the Labor Department allocated another \$50 million to the apprenticeship campaign, and we were selected,” he further noted.

The Hub will diligently recruit underrepresented populations from underserved communities, including women, people of color, people with disabilities, veterans, formerly incarcerated individuals, youth, and unemployed or dislocated individuals impacted by covid.

The Hub strategy will incorporate the proven and innovative Aero-Flex and Bio-Flex apprenticeship model that West Los Angeles College (WLAC), El Camino College (ECC), and the SBWIB created with guidance from multiple employer partners to meet their workforce needs and demands of emerging technologies. It is employer-centric, market-driven, and uses a multi-sector/ multi-sponsor strategy.

For more information, please visit [sbwib.org](http://sbwib.org) or call (310) 970-7700.

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