



\$8.2 million granted to assist dislocated central California workers

2010-03-23 09:39:31

Dislocated workers in California's San Joaquin Valley are the target of an \$8.2 million federal grant issued on Friday.

Tulare County is one of the 14 central Valley counties — Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne as well — to which the U.S. Department of Labor funds will go.

The money, a Regional Economic Impact National Emergency Grant, will serve an estimated 1,439 workers in Central California.

"Today's funding will help workers in this important region of the Golden State receive the training they need to find good jobs in promising industries," Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis said. "The grant will assist both workers who have been laid off and those facing dislocations in the near future."

Of the \$8,197,664 announced Friday, \$4,762,120 will be released initially.

Additional funding up to the amount approved will be made available as the grantee demonstrates a continued need for assistance.

The grant will be operated by the Fresno Workforce Investment Board, Kern/Inyo/Mono Workforce Investment Board, Kings County Job Training Office, Madera County Workforce Investment Board, Merced Workforce Investment Board, Mother Lode Workforce Investment Board, San Joaquin Workforce Investment Board, Stanislaus County Alliance Worknet and Tulare County Workforce Investment Board.

It will provide the California Central Valley Workforce Collaborative with flexibility to serve workers affected by projected layoffs occurring within this region during the grant's 12-month period of performance.

The grant will focus on providing training and transition services to workers impacted by a three-year drought and widespread layoffs resulting from the economic downturn.

Funding will help workers prepare for careers in growing areas of the regional economy including agribusiness, renewable energy, supply chain logistics, health care and advanced manufacturing.

"As I have said many times, the entire country is hurting right now — but the San Joaquin Valley is hurting worse," said Rep. Dennis Cardoza, who represents California's 18th District, of the announcement. "I am glad to see these funds directed to an area that has been hardest hit by the recession. While it appears that this money will bring assistance to our county and others, we need to ensure we continue working on the issues of job growth and retention. I will continue to do all I can to keep a spotlight on our region and its significant economic challenges."

The amount released Friday will be funded by resources made available for National Emergency Grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

© Copyright 2010 Freedom Communications. All Rights Reserved.
[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Site Map](#)