



# Rapid Employment Strategies Pilot on Natural Disasters (RESPOND)

In April, 2014, Panel approved the Rapid Employment Strategies on Natural Disasters (RESPOND) Guidelines. These guidelines were originally designed to address the Governor declared State of Emergency, due to extreme drought conditions.

Due to the nature of California's climate, geology, and other factors, droughts are not the only natural disasters we may face. Fires, earthquakes, and other major disruptions to the state's economy and living conditions can arise, as the recent COVID-19 outbreak has demonstrated. Accordingly, at the Panel Meeting that took place on May 15, 2020, the RESPOND program was clarified to ensure that the definition of "Natural Disaster" is not limited to only extreme drought conditions, but shall also include any natural occurring disaster as determined by the Executive Director.

The RESPOND Pilot Program provides funding under both ETP Core Funding (both OSC and SET). ETP Alternative Funding may apply if or when alternative funds are received from the General Fund.

Both Single Employer and MEC Employers are eligible to participate in the RESPOND Program. Standard eligibility determination requirements apply.

All projects eligible for funding under the RESPOND Pilot Guidelines will be deemed "Critical Proposals" with maximum flexibility and an expedited development/approval process.

RESPOND projects will receive the highest reimbursement rate, at whatever level the rates are currently set at for any given fiscal year. The only exception will be the reimbursement rate for CBT training, which will receive CBT rate as set forth in any given fiscal year.

The retention period for RESPOND projects are 90 days, or 500 hours within 272 days.

The turnover rate requirement is waived for RESPOND projects.

Support costs for MEC's in the RESPOND program are capped at 12%.

Standard wage requirements apply to all RESPOND projects.

In addition to standard curriculum requirements, OSHA 10/30, literacy skills, and occupational specific safety training may be included in RESPOND projects, with productive lab ratios up to 1:10.

**For further information regarding this Pilot program, please contact [ETP's Economic Development Unit](#), or call 916-327-5258.**