



# Rapid Employment Strategies Pilot on Natural Disasters – RESPOND

- In April 2014, the Panel implemented the Rapid Employment Strategies Pilot on Natural Disasters (RESPOND) Pilot Program in order to help mitigate the devastating effects to workers and industries in communities most severely impacted by the drought.
- In May 2020, the RESPOND program was expanded to include those affected by all natural disasters, not just by drought.
- The RESPOND Pilot Program provides funding under ETP Core funding to both Single Employers and MECs. If alternate funding ever becomes available, projects awarded under alternative funding may have additional program criteria requirements.
- All projects eligible for funding under the RESPOND Pilot Guidelines will be deemed “Critical Proposals” with an expedited development/approval process.
- MEC support costs are capped at 12%.
- Standard wage requirements apply.
- Both a standard 90-day retention and an alternate retention period of 500 hours within 272 days are allowed.
- Turnover rate penalties are waived, but turnover rate must still be reported.
- Literacy skills training is allowable for all RESPOND projects. However, total training hours must consist of at least 50% job-related vocational skills training.
- Occupation-specific safety training is allowable for all projects funded under ETP’s RESPOND Pilot Program.
- The reimbursement rate for all RESPOND projects is set at the highest reimbursement rate level each Fiscal Year, except for CBT courses, which are reimbursed at the set CBT rate.

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