



Employment Training Panel

Memorandum

To: ETP Policy Committee
Gretchen Newsom, Chairperson
Janice Roberts, Member
Rick Smiles: Member

Date: June 18, 2020

CC: Executive Staff
Peter Cooper, Assistant Director

From: Lis Testa, Policy Manager

Subject: ETP Policy Committee Meeting Agenda Item 3.a.
Report to Policy Committee Re: 2020 STEPS Update

I. Overview:

The STEPS Program is entering its third year. STEPS, or the Summer Training and Employment Program for Students Program, is a grant issued in partnership with ETP, the CA Department of Rehabilitation, and the CA Community College Foundation, that provides funding to CA Workforce Development Boards to provide pre-vocational training and paid work experience to students with disabilities, aged 16-21.

In 2018, the first year of the grant, \$1.5M was awarded to 6 WDBs, who provided over 330 students with disabilities 7,000 hours of pre-vocational training in topics such as interview skills, applications, communication, and customer service. These students were also placed in employment in local businesses such as retail establishments, restaurants, non-profits, offices, gyms, and child care centers, where they received 60,000 hours of paid work experience.

In the second year of the grant, funding more than doubled to \$3.15M, which was awarded to 9 WDBs, and the number of students served similarly increased.

This year, funding has increased again, and a total of \$4M was awarded to 9 WDBs, who have the opportunity to renew their grants next year with the same terms if their activities this year are successful and funding remains available. Here are this year's awardees:

Richmond Workforce Development Board
Verdugo Workforce Development Board
County of Santa Barbara Workforce Development Board
Sacramento Employment Training Agency/Sacramento Works (SETA)
City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board

Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County
San Joaquin County Workforce Development Board
Orange County Workforce Development Board
Riverside County Workforce Development Division

Please join ETP in congratulating this year's STEPS Program awardees!