



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Employment Training Panel



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News Release

Employment Training Panel Announces Grant to Support Business Innovation, Equity, and Social Responsibility through Training and Micro-Grants

SACRAMENTO – The State of California’s Employment Training Panel announced the application period for a new grant that will foster business innovation and equity, inclusion, and social responsibility for individuals who face employment barriers is now open. This grant is open to non-profit Community Based Organizations (CBOs) with a deadline to submit a proposal by March 3, 2021 (3 PM PST).

“We are excited to launch an entrepreneurial initiative that supports social inclusion and grows small businesses across the state,” said Reg Javier, Employment Training Panel Executive Director. “This grant will help unlock solutions that build to stronger career pathways that will contribute to a more equitable and resilient economy.”

In June 2020, the California Legislature approved Assembly Bill 82 which established the Social Entrepreneurs for Economic Development (SEED) Initiative. The purpose of the SEED initiative is to support the entrepreneurship of immigrants and limited English proficient individuals, regardless of their immigration status, who face significant employment barriers, which will also increase economic diversity and help spur California business innovation.

The Employment Training Panel will administer the \$9,650,000 available for the new SEED Initiative. Non-profit community-based organizations may apply for a grant under two programs: the SEED Entrepreneurship Program and the SEED Demonstration Project on Worker Cooperatives and Employee Ownership. A CBO that is awarded a SEED Entrepreneurial Program grant will implement various activities to support the distribution of micro-grants to individuals in SEED target populations, including developing and providing entrepreneurial training geared toward SEED target populations. The training will include information to fill knowledge gaps and address barriers around business ownership and entrepreneurship faced by SEED target populations, and will incorporate information on socially responsible business approaches and high road employment practices.

SEED’s Demonstration Project will support the creation and sustainability of worker-owned businesses and cooperatives, including development of a worker training curriculum that is designed to help support the formation, incubation, or capacity building of worker cooperatives or employee-owned small businesses in low-wage industries.

The global health crisis has highlighted the essential contributions that immigrants and individuals with limited English proficiency make to our economy and communities. The SEED and Employment Training Panel's grant funding will strengthen our workforce and build inclusive economies with long-term career path opportunities for its workers.

Proposal Webinars will be held on **February 2, 2021 (11 AM PST)**, and **February 4, 2021 (1 PM PST)** to answer questions from prospective CBO applicants. To RSVP for either of the scheduled webinars, please visit <https://etp.ca.gov/grants/>.

For additional information, proposal requirements, and accompanying documents regarding the ETP SEED grant, please visit <https://etp.ca.gov/grants/>.

For more information about the ETP program, please visit www.etp.ca.gov, or call (916) 327-5578.

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The Employment Training Panel provides financial assistance to California businesses to support customized worker training that attract and retain businesses which contribute to a healthy California economy.