



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Employment Training Panel



Gavin Newsom GOVERNOR

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News Release

Employment Training Panel Awards \$22.5 million to train more than 18,000 workers
Apprenticeships provide a path to good-paying jobs in the trades for a diverse workforce

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: California is investing \$22.5 million to train more than 18,000 people for jobs in the skilled trades. Such apprenticeships are a key part of Governor Gavin Newsom's Jobs First Initiative, which emphasizes earn and learn programs that equip Californians with the skills needed to excel in the modern economy. Childcare assistance through the state's ERICA Grant program is helping apprentices overcome hurdles to participation. Hundreds of workers will be trained to install electrical vehicle chargers.

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Training Panel (ETP) Friday approved \$22.5 million in grants for 71 apprenticeship programs that will train 18,043 California workers in the skilled trades.

Many of those who will join the apprenticeships funded Friday are women, veterans and people transitioning from unemployment or low-paying jobs. The ETP awards are funded by a voluntary payroll tax on employers and do not come out of the state's general fund.

Most of the awards will fund apprenticeships in the construction trades, but \$206,000 will go to train 103 meatcutters at seven United Food and Commercial Workers Local 5 locations in Northern California.

Under Gov. Newsom, the state has made a strong push to increase the number of apprenticeships available to Californians, including complementary programs that help people overcome barriers to participation. Two such apprentices, Nancy Serrano and Rhiannon Casas, spoke at Friday's Employment Training Panel meeting.

They are both apprentices with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 617 in San Mateo, and they get help paying for childcare through the state's ERICA Grant (Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeship). Launched in 2022 with \$25 million, ERICA Grants are administered by the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) to improve access to training and employment opportunities for women, non-binary and underserved populations within the building and construction trades.

“My life has been less stressful since receiving the grant because it helps me take care of my daughter,” said Sarrano, who was accepted into the IBEW apprenticeship program in 2022.

“My kids are so proud to see their mom being an electrician,” Casas said. “My daughter wears my IBEW sweatshirt to school and rocks it every day.”

The IBEW apprenticeship takes five years and includes 1,100 hours of classroom learning and 8,000 hours of on-the-job training. Casas said she is currently learning how to install EV chargers.

She is one of hundreds of electricians around the state that will receive training in electrical charging infrastructure and other technologies to help the state meet its climate goals.

Since 2012, the Employment Training Panel has been funding the classroom instruction portion of state registered apprenticeship training programs. In the past 10 years it has provided training for 115,937 apprentices, pre-apprenticeships and journeymen.

“ETP is part of California’s dynamic workforce ecosystem dedicated to investing in programs that elevate Californians from all walks of life,” said ETP Executive Director Jessica Grimes. “Today’s panel was no different, for it further demonstrates our commitment to supporting earn-and-learn models like apprenticeships that have a history of producing career-changing opportunities for a diverse workforce.

I always leave these panel meetings feeling energized to do more because they affirm why unprecedented collaboration, the DNA of the ETP mission, leads to upward mobility and the transformation of lives, our North Star.”



Rhiannon Casas, left, and Nancy Serrano

For more information about the ETP program, please visit www.etp.ca.gov, or call (916) 737-4181.

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The ETP was created in 1982 by the California State Legislature. It is governed by an eight-member panel whose members are appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate and who represent business, labor and government.