



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Employment Training Panel



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News Release

California's workforce training investments to strengthen nation-leading life sciences industry

What you need to know: The Employment Training Panel is supporting workforce training at Edwards Lifesciences in Irvine to strengthen the state's life science manufacturing workforce and reinforce California's leadership in one of its fastest-growing strategic industries.

SACRAMENTO – The [California Employment Training Panel \(ETP\)](#) announced approval of \$838,880 to support workforce training for up to 535 current and new employees at Edwards Lifesciences in Irvine. The approved the proposal at its March 26, 2026 Panel meeting.

The funding will support front-line manufacturing and technical training for workers across a range of roles, including production workers, technicians, administrators, engineers, and managers, helping strengthen California's talent pipeline in life sciences and advanced manufacturing.

"California's workforce strategy is rooted in aligning training investments with the needs of high-growth industries," said California Labor Secretary Stewart Knox. "By partnering with employers like Edwards Lifesciences, we're helping workers build specialized skills for in-demand careers while ensuring California businesses have the talent they need to compete and grow."

"ETP is proud to support Edwards Lifesciences as it expands workforce opportunities in one of California's most dynamic industries," said Dr. Jessica Grimes, Executive Director of the Employment Training Panel. "This investment strengthens our state's advanced manufacturing workforce while supporting innovation and regional economic growth."

Edwards Lifesciences is a leading global structural heart innovation company headquartered in Irvine, California. The company uses breakthrough technologies, evidence-based research, and partnerships with clinicians and healthcare stakeholders to deliver medical innovations to patients worldwide.

California's life sciences industry is a key growth sector in the Governor's [California Jobs First Economic Blueprint](#) and supports more than 1.15 million jobs statewide. Manufacturing-focused roles [make up 31.2% of the state's life sciences workforce](#), ranking California ahead of Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas and underscoring its leadership in advanced medical technology manufacturing.

“California is the global leader in life sciences innovation and patient care because of the people who tirelessly drive our industry forward,” said Sam Chung, Senior Vice President of Government Relations & External Affairs at California Life Sciences. “The Employment Training Panel’s investment strengthens the specialized talent pipeline that keeps California at the forefront of medical innovation and ensures patients continue to benefit from the breakthroughs happening right here in our state.”

Workers will receive hands-on technical training in a clean room manufacturing environment at Edwards’ Irvine facility, including instruction on advanced manufacturing processes, FDA regulatory compliance, quality standards, and production efficiency.

The training comes as Edwards expands its Irvine campus to meet growing demand, increase hiring, enhance production capacity, and continue investing in research and development.

In March, in addition to the Edward Life Sciences project, ETP approved \$11,657,058 in funding for 37 projects to support over 9,000 trainees. Of this funding, \$2,733,888 was approved for 15 new contracts to upskill 2,043 new trainees.

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.