



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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NEWS RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board nets \$2M Federal grant to serve Santa Maria youth

The Federal Department of Labor awarded the Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board a \$2 Million grant to prepare and connect Santa Maria youth to employment opportunities. The City of Santa Maria is one of 11 communities across the country to receive the competitive grant funding and the only awardee in California. The grant will fund the launch and expansion of an innovative program that provides young people with summer and year-round jobs and connects them to long-term career pathways.

Santa Maria Summer Jobs & Beyond will serve 260 young adults between the ages of 16-24 (both in school and out of school). The initiative brings together nine different partners to provide services and develop paid work experience opportunities, including summer and year-round employment. The Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board will lead the collaborative. The partners include:

- Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce
- Center for Employment Training
- Santa Barbara County Education Office (ROP)
- Four Square Church
- Santa Maria Parks and Recreation Department
- Community Health Center
- Goodwill Industries
- Santa Maria Joint Union High School District

The project will include the following components: parent engagement and education; jobs academy/career camp; pre-employment training; job placement; career connections; and supportive follow-up.

The goal of the project is to provide disadvantaged youth with summer jobs, decrease violence in the community, and to ensure youth obtain the skills necessary to land their first job.

"I am excited at the level of commitment from everyone involved in this initiative. This is a great opportunity for young people to build life-long skills and for our community to come together to support them," said Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino.

ABOUT THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

The Workforce Development Board, www.sbcwdb.org, is dedicated to serving the workforce needs of businesses, adults, laid-off workers and youth throughout Santa Barbara County. The WDB is a public/private partnership created by the Federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) and is staffed by the County of Santa Barbara.

Job seekers and employers can take advantage of free services at two Workforce Resource Centers ("One-Stops") to help find work or new employees. Programs include employment services for job seekers, the latest labor market information and regional workforce research for businesses, as well as training that specialize in helping people gain the skills and confidence necessary to find and obtain a job. The One-Stop Shops are at 1410 S. Broadway in Santa Maria, (805) 614-1550, and 130 E. Ortega Street in Santa Barbara, (805) 568-1296. Online information is available at www.workforceresource.com.

Santa Barbara County Industry Clusters of Opportunity (designated by WDB):

Healthcare
Energy and Environment
Building and Design
Technology and Innovation
Business Support Services
Agriculture, Tourism, and Wineries

For more information please go to: www.sbcwdb.org or to www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov for the full statewide unemployment figures.