

## **Update on Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Program Activities**

### **Adult and Dislocated Worker Program**

The Adult and Dislocated Worker (ADW) program is expanding its countywide presence through consistent outreach, employer engagement, and community partnerships. The team is focused on connecting with employers and community organizations, hosting in-person workshops, and increasing visibility of available workforce services. These efforts have resulted in increased public inquiries, higher pre-application submissions, and a noticeable rise in office call volume, demonstrating strong community interest in services.

As part of targeted outreach to priority populations, the team hosted two in-person Veteran Enrollment Events at the Marina satellite location on December 10, 2025, and January 7, 2026. These events provided veterans with direct access to career guidance, enrollment support, and program information. Based on positive engagement and participation, the ADW program will continue hosting monthly open enrollment events at the Marina location.

Program staff also engage weekly with the High Road Construction Careers (HRCC) training cohort, which remains on track for graduation on January 9, 2026. All 16 participants are actively engaged in hands-on construction training, including asphalt and welding activities. Participants consistently report high levels of motivation, confidence, and excitement as they near program completion.

In addition, staff participated in several local community meetings throughout December, including coordination meetings with the Step-Up Program, Proposition 47 referral partners, and the Central Coast Center for Independent Living. These collaborations strengthen referral pathways, improve service coordination, and expand access to workforce resources for shared populations.

### **Youth Programs**

In August 2025, the Youth program partnered with the City of Greenfield to facilitate a Job/Resource fair at the Greenfield Civic Center. Based on the success of that event, Greenfield has requested to partner again for a Job/Resource Fair in April 2026.

### **Green Cadre**

As December 2025 concluded, the CaliforniansForAll-funded Green Cadre group demonstrated strong progress in environmental restoration and food security through effective community partnerships across Monterey County.

The Climate Action Team collaborated closely with California State Parks to prepare for a controlled burn, remove invasive species, restore critical habitats, and plant more than 600 native plants at Andrew Molera State Park, Fort Ord Dunes, and Big Sur. Additional partnerships with the Resource Conservation District supported mulching and garden improvement projects in Seaside and Monterey, further advancing local sustainability efforts.

The Food Insecurity Team supported food distributions in Seaside, Salinas, Chualar, and Castroville, assisting hundreds of families to access nutritious food. Participants also sorted and packaged food parcels at the Food Bank for Monterey County, enhanced community gardens at Pacific Grove Adult School by laying wood chips and assisting families with vegetable harvests, created placemats for Meals on Wheels recipients, and conducted CalFresh outreach in the Alisal community. Collectively, these efforts improved food access, strengthened community resilience, and deepened community engagement throughout the region.

Green Cadre participants have successfully transitioned into employment and postsecondary pathways, securing the following positions: Behavioral Technician with Blue Sprig, Case Management Specialist with Sun Street Centers, and City Park Maintenance with the City of Monterey. Additional participants are pursuing new opportunities, including enlistment in the United States Air Force and enrollment in college.

Orientations, interviews, and onboarding for the next Green Cadre cohort were completed, with a total of 80 applications received and 19 applicants accepted into the program. Training is scheduled to begin on January 12, 2026, with the cohort running through April 17, 2026.