

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

Adult and Dislocated Worker (ADW) Program:

High Road Construction Careers (HRCC) Pre-Apprenticeship Program

The HRCC program is a 10-week apprenticeship preparation program funded by a discretionary grant from the State of California. In the second week of April, the Monterey County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) enrolled 17 participants in the HRCC pre-apprenticeship program, which integrates classroom instruction with hands-on construction training. Staff visits the training site weekly to ensure continued participant support and progress tracking.

During a recent visit, several participants were seen marking lines for upcoming crack-line work on concrete, while others cleared concrete residue from wood and stacked materials near the fence in preparation for building the back-area wall.



Hiring Events and Employer Engagement

Employer engagement remained robust from April through mid-June 2025, including:

- Staff participation in the April 12 South County Employment & Resource Fair and the April 18 Veterans Stand Down, strengthening regional employer relationships.
- A Salinas job fair on April 23 that drew 94 job seekers and 12 employers, with media coverage on KSBW-TV.
- Youth and young adult job fairs that were held on May 14 in Salinas and May 17 at Monterey Adult School in Seaside.
- A successful Transportation Industry hiring event on May 28 with strong job seeker turnout and multiple on-site interviews.
- A Salinas Job fair on June 11 that drew 81 job seekers and 7 employers.

On-the-Job Training (OJT)

OJT makes an impact in the lives of participants as well as on local employers' businesses:

OJT Employer Testimonial

"As a business owner and broker, I am incredibly thankful for the On-the-Job Training (OJT) program and the amazing support provided by Monterey County Works. Their team has made a real difference in helping a small business like mine grow. The OJT program has allowed me to confidently invest in training new talent without the fear of losing them after they're trained. The Business Services Team has been fantastic, always available, communicative, and supportive throughout the process, even guiding me to complete important documents like our employee handbook and everything required to become a host site. One of the most rewarding outcomes has been seeing an employee who started with us as a transaction coordinator complete the OJT training, stay with our company, study for his state exam, and become a licensed realtor. Programs like this create real impact—for employers and employees alike. I couldn't be more grateful."

— Lucila Borghezan, Owner/Broker, Century 21 A Property Shoppe



Innovative Workforce Readiness Tools

Staff participated in a train-the-trainer session with Transfer VR, introducing virtual reality tools into MCWDB's workforce training portfolio. This forward-thinking resource aligns with MCWDB's commitment to innovation in job readiness programming.

Workshop Summary

In-person workforce development workshops play a vital role in boosting participant confidence and enhancing job readiness. Recent sessions have included *Interviewing for Success*, *Resume Makeover II*, *Professional Development*, *Job Search Success Beyond 50*, and *Transform Your Interview II*.

Youth Programs

WIOA-Funded Green Cadre

MCWDB's WIOA-funded Green Cadre program graduated in May. The Cadre participants were recognized by the California Parks and Recreation Society for their contributions and took a pledge to combat climate change. Graduates have been attending job fairs and applying for employment throughout Monterey County. Staff is working diligently with the participants to help them find employment.

JOB Y Tech Cadre

MCWDB has partnered with Joby Aviation for the Tech Cadre program in Marina, a WIOA internship program for 8-10 weeks during the summer. Joby has selected six participants for the program that began on June 16, 2025.

Hospitality Cadre

The Hospitality Cadre's 10 participants have received their OSHA 10, Food Handler, and National Association of Entrepreneurship & Business certifications and credentials. Participants are interviewing and being placed with our hospitality partners: Best Western, the Steinbeck House, Odyssey Freediving, Taqueria Mi Ranchito, Kona Steak House & Seafood, Work Horse Bicycles and the Pacific Inn. Youth are being prepared with mock interviews to set them up for successful interviews with these employers.

