

## **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 building momentum across Monterey County through expanded outreach, intentional employer engagement, and deeper community partnerships. Staff are highly visible in the community, meeting directly with employers, collaborating with partner organizations, and hosting in-person orientations and workshops that connect residents to training and employment opportunities. This increased presence has driven higher public interest, stronger referral activity, and greater awareness of available workforce services countywide.

Staff also maintain weekly onsite engagement with the High Road Construction Careers (HRCC) program and the new cohort launched in January. The program's 14 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 progress through the program and prepare for entry into the construction workforce.

Staff work closely with local businesses to identify their hiring needs and promote On-the-Job Training (OJT) and Transitional Job opportunities. These work-based learning strategies engage and support employers while providing participants with paid, skill-building experiences leading to long-term employment. Overall, these combined efforts continue to advance ADW program goals by increasing awareness, expanding access to services, and strengthening connections between job seekers, employers, and community partners throughout Monterey County.

### **Youth Programs**

#### **Green Cadre**

As of January, the Youth program enrolled 20 participants in the Green Cadre. During the in-house training phase, all participants completed three weeks of instruction, earning OSHA 10, HAZWOPER, CPR, and ServSafe Food Handler certifications.

The Green Cadre has partnered with the City of Monterey, the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC), and the Pacific Grove Community Garden to support the project. In addition, Green Cadre has established a new partnership with MEarth in Carmel.

During the first week of their work experience, Cadre participants supported Seaside Beta Park by digging holes in preparation for the installation of a new fence, removing weeds and laying cardboard to prepare the area for re-soiling.

In addition, the group prepared the grounds at the Pacific Grove Adult School Garden by digging trenches for hose installation to support plant beds. Other valuable work completed by Green Cadre during the first week included planting trees and other plants, spreading mulch, and cleaning up public-use areas throughout the City of Monterey.



Among the graduates from the previous Green Cadre cohort, four participants have enrolled in educational programs at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and Hartnell College. Another four participants have secured employment with Sun Street Centers, Phoenix Shop, BlueSprig Behavioral Therapy Center, and the City of Monterey. Other Green Cadre graduates continue to receive individualized support as they pursue employment opportunities or further education.

### **Social Media Cadre**

The Youth program is preparing to launch the upcoming Social Media Cadre, which is designed to equip young adults with the skills needed to participate in work experiences with small businesses. Participants will support businesses by creating or enhancing their social media presence to help increase customer engagement and business traffic. The Social Media Cadre is expected to begin on March 16 and conclude on May 27, 2026.

### **Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)**

As of January, seven young adults have enrolled in the upcoming CNA Occupational Skills Training with Central Coast College and will be supported throughout the duration of their training.