



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD



Date: May 27, 2026

Time: 7:00 A.M.

Location: **Recruitment Center**

1215 Olive Drive Bakersfield, CA



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Date: May 27, 2026
Location: Recruitment Center - 1215 Olive Drive
Time: 7:00 a.m.
Dial-in: (831) 296-3421
Access Code: 584 984 020#

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Flag Salute**
- III. **Introduction**
- IV. **Public Comments**

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Board on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Board. Board members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for information, or request staff to report back to the Board at a later meeting. Also, the Board may take action to direct the staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. Speakers are limited to three minutes.

V. Consent Agenda – Action Items

- 1-3 A. Approval of February 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes
- 4-10 B. Preliminary Allocation and Funding Recommendations for Youth Programs Funded Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for Program Year 2026-27
- 11-16 C. Preliminary Funding Recommendations for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Combined Programs and Services for Program Year 2026-2027
- 17-18 D. Request for Retroactive Approval of the Second Amendment to Increase Program Year 2025-2026 Subgrant Agreement with Proteus, Inc. for On-The-Job Training Services
- 19-23 E. Ratification of Transfer of Funds Request
- 24-50 F. Miscellaneous Filings to Receive and File
 - California Workforce Development Board, Application for Certification of High Performing Board Approval Letter, dated April 22, 2026
 - Draft Program and Business Services Committee April 30, 2026, Meeting Minutes
 - Draft Youth Committee April 29, 2026, Meeting Minutes
 - Draft Executive Committee May 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes
 - Kern, Inyo and Mono Counties AJCC System Quarterly Report – Q3 January – March
 - Kern, Inyo and Mono Workforce Development Board and Committee's Attendance Reports
 - Kern, Inyo and Mono Workforce Development Board and Committee's Meeting Schedule Calendar Year 2026
- VI. Education and Workforce Development Presentation**
 - Youth Participant Life Cycle – Aisia Fulmer
 - Kahoot! Quiz on Youth Presentation

- 51 **VII. New Business**
 A. Approve Staff to Notify Local Board Determination List of Applicants of
 Review Committee's Denial – **Action Item**
- 52-57 B. Legislative Update – **Oral Report**
- 58-60 **VIII. Budget Review**
- KIM Workforce Development Financial Report
 - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth, Adult, and
Dislocated Worker Activities Final Allocations
- IX. Department Updates – Oral Report**
- DOGWF PWEX approval
 - Grant Update
 - Unemployment and Occupation Report
 - Diane Brown Visit
 - Orientation Resolution
 - MC3 Visit Report
 - Healthcare Job Fair
- X. Workforce Industry Discussion**
- What do you see as the number one workforce challenge your industry
will face in the next three years?
- XI. Board Member Announcements and Reports**
 On their own initiative, Board members may make an announcement or a
 report on their own activities. They may ask a question for clarification, make
 a referral to staff or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a
 future agenda
- Kern Economic Development Report
 - Small Business Development Report
- XII. Adjournment**

Disabled individuals who need special assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the Workforce Development Board may request assistance at Employers' Training Resource, 1600 East Belle Terrace, Bakersfield, California, or by calling (661) 336-6972. Every effort will be made to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting materials available in alternative formats. Requests for assistance should be made at least three (3) working days in advance whenever possible.

All agenda items supporting documentation are available for public review at Employers' Training Resource, 1600 East Belle Terrace, Bakersfield, 93307, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, following the posting of the agenda. Any supporting documentation that relates to an agenda item for an open session of any regular meeting that is distributed after the agenda is posted and before the meeting will also be available for review at the same location.

Please remember to turn off all cell phones, pagers, or electronic devices during the meeting.

**KERN, INYO AND MONO
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS
FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

Members Present: Brenda Mendivel, Alex Haver, Alissa Reed, Brian Holt, Christina Garza, Clare Pagnini, Cody Brooks, Devin Brown, Jason Smoot, Jeremy Tobias, John Morales, Kelly Bearden, Kenny Spratt, Lizette Gomez, Michele Warren, Mikin Plummer, Norma Rojas-Mora, Priscilla Varela, Richard Chapman, Randy Martin, Laura Barnes, Robert Watson, Scott Odlin, Season Susko, Greg Knittel, Steven Gomez.

Members Absent: Brandon Evans.

Staff Present: Chase Wheeler, Jasmine Hernandez, Danette Williams, Simone Bellanger, Candy Gettman, Susie Vasquez, Michael Saltz, Marsha Manos, Anne Meert, Linda Lare, Scott Couture.

Guest Present: Joshua Rudnick, Luis Rios, Alyssa Cervantes, Jim Keene, Imelda Ceja, Julian Najera, Carolina Aldaco, Yovani Jimenez.

*Unexcused

Brenda Mendivel called the meeting to order at 7:04 a.m.

Introduction

Staff and guests introduced themselves.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of December 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Michelle Warren made a motion to approve the minutes. Brenda Mendivel seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed.

Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with TalentBase LLC for Veteran Workforce Development Services

Jeremy Shumaker requested Board approval for ETR to enter into a \$112,000 agreement with TalentBase LLC, a Veteran-owned small business in Bakersfield, to provide workforce development services for Veterans from March 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. TalentBase will deliver career navigation, job readiness, and employer engagement. ETR will handle eligibility, case management, and WIOA service coordination. After discussion,

Devin Brown moved to approve the agreement on a sole source basis, Jeremy Tobias seconded, Kenny Spratt abstained, and the motion passed unanimously.

Request For Retroactive Approval to Increase Program Year 2025-2026 Subgrant Agreement with Proteus, Inc. for On-The-Job Training Services

Jeremy Shumaker requested retroactive approval to increase funding for Proteus, Inc. by \$60,000 for On-the-Job Training in Delano, due to depleted funds. Rob Watson moved to approve, Devin Brown seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Request For Approval to Apply for The Farmworkers Advancement Program – Program Year 2025-26

Jeremy Shumaker told the Board that ETR wants to apply for a \$1,000,000 grant from the Farmworkers Advancement Program for the Kern/Inyo/Mono Consortium. The grant will fund projects that address farmworker needs by providing training to help them advance within agriculture or transition to other industries. ETR aims to serve 110 farm workers. The grant requires a 20% funding match, which ETR will meet using employer contributions through the On-The-Job Training (OJT) program and by co-enrolling participants in WIOA Title I Adult. The grant period will last 18–24 months. Clare Pagnini moved to approve the application, Kenny Spratt seconded, and Lizette Gomez and Scott Odlin abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Adult Education Food Service Program Site at Southeast America's Job Center of California Cafeteria with Kern High School District - Bakersfield Adult School

Michael Saltz requested Board approval for ETR to enter a three-year agreement with Kern High School District to operate the Café 1600 food service training program at the SE AJCC kitchen and cafeteria. The County will cover food costs and use cafeteria revenue to offset expenses. The motion passed unanimously.

Transfer of Funds Request

Jeremy Shumaker requested Board approval to transfer \$372,194.08 from Dislocated Worker to Adult funding for Program Year 2024-2026, in accordance with EDD Workforce Services Directive 22-09. This transfer is needed to meet current local workforce training needs. Lizette Gomez moved to approve, Brenda Mendivel seconded, Christina Garza abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports – Oral Report

Each Chair of the standing committees gave a summary of what transpired during their respective meetings.

- Program and Business Services Committee — Lizette Gomez
- Executive Committee — Lizette Gomez

Committee Chair Discussion Items

- Employer Survey Site Visits
- Board Engagement

Workforce Industry Discussion

Danette Williams gave an overview of the Workforce Development Performance Dashboard.

Department Updates – Oral Report

Linda Lara provided the board with a budgetary update.

Board Member Comment

Kelly Bearden provided the Board with an Economic Development Report.

Miscellaneous Filings to Receive and File – Action Item

Devin Brown made a motion to receive and file the following items:

- Employment Development Department Annual Review: 85% Formula Grant Fiscal Year
- 2024-25 Final Monitoring Report Dated February 2, 2026.
- Draft Program and Business Services Committee January 15, 2026, Meeting Minutes
- Draft Youth Committee January 20, 2026, Meeting Minutes
- Draft Executive Committee February 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes
- Kern, Inyo and Mono Workforce Development Board and Committee's Attendance Reports
- Kern, Inyo and Mono Workforce Development Board and Committee's Meeting Schedule Calendar Year 2026

Michelle Warren seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 8:15 a.m.



May 27, 2026

Kern, Inyo and Mono
Workforce Development Board
1600 E. Belle Terrace
Bakersfield, CA 93307

PRELIMINARY ALLOCATION AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS FUNDED UNDER THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2026-27

Dear Board Member:

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), a full Request for Proposals (RFP) is required at least once every four years to procure providers of services. On January 18, 2023, Employers' Training Resource (ETR) issued an RFP to procure WIOA In- and Out-of-School Youth (ISY and OSY) services for Program Year (PY) 2023-2024 for Kern County. The RFP stated, "Upon approval of the Workforce Development Board (WDB), funded programs may be eligible for refunding for up to three subsequent program years before another RFP is issued." At its meeting on December 17, 2025, the WDB approved a Request for Refunding (RFR) process for In- and Out-of-School Youth (ISY and OSY) programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for Program Year (PY) 2026-27 (year four), and the RFR was issued on February 4, 2026 to five agencies representing six programs.

The State recently released WIOA formula planning allocations for Program Year 2026-27, and the Kern, Inyo and Mono Counties Youth Allocation is \$6,017,179. This is a reduction of \$822,145 from the current year's allocation. The funding for the current PY is \$6,839,324.

Funding opportunities were divided into two categories under the PY 2026-27 RFR:

1. Comprehensive ISY programs to serve youth in Community, Continuation, or Court Schools (RFR open to the currently contracted providers only);
2. Comprehensive OSY programs providing a full array of services directly or via referral (RFR open to the currently contracted providers only);

Applicants were asked basic questions about their history of success serving the population, any current challenges, proposed program changes, and budget/cost

justification. All agencies were advised to request funding at the same level or lower than the current year.

As per ETR's procurement policy, RFR applications were reviewed by a committee of ETR staff members. The committee of six ETR staff members reviewed the RFR applications in terms of the following:

- Necessity and reasonableness of costs/proposed budget;
- Demonstrated success in the provision of services, participant outcomes, and goals;
- Continued need for the for the program or service;
- Significant monitoring findings or other issues reported by ETR staff;
- Proposed changes to current program and/or budget;

As part of the review process, agencies are required to provide a complete copy of their most recent audit or financial statements. ETR fiscal staff review the audit or financial statements for findings and/or major issues and make recommendations regarding the financial risk of the agency. All agencies passed the financial statement review.

The recommendations were presented to ETR senior management for final review and approval. ETR recommends the following:

ISY Program

Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) - \$293,306 for 65 participants

Kern High School District (KHSD) - \$300,000 for 80 participants

OSY Program

Farmworkers Institute of Education and Leadership Development (FIELD) - \$200,445 for 20 participants

Kern High School District (KHSD) - \$344,540 for 50 participants

Proteus, Inc. - \$229,425 for 42 participants

West Kern Adult Education Network JPA (WKAEN) - \$370,582 for 52 participants

The total recommended for ISY program funding is \$593,306, the total recommended for OSY program funding is \$1,144,992, and the total for all youth programs is \$1,738,298.

At its April 29, 2026, meeting, the Youth Committee concurred with the recommendations.

Notification to Agencies

RFR applicants were provided a copy of this letter and informed of your Committee and Board's meeting dates. Agencies were also provided information on the appeal process.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board authorize the distribution of PY 2026-2027 WIOA funds in the amount of \$1,738,298 to the following: 1) Kern County Superintendent of Schools to provide comprehensive services to 65 ISY participants in the amount not to exceed \$293,306; 2) Kern High School District to provide comprehensive services to 80 ISY in the amount not to exceed \$300,000; 3) Farmworkers Institute of Education and Leadership Development to provide comprehensive services to 20 OSY in the amount not to exceed \$200,445; 4) Kern High School District to provide comprehensive services to 50 OSY in the amount not to exceed \$344,540; 5) Proteus, Inc. to provide comprehensive services to 42 OSY in the amount not to exceed \$229,425; and 6) West Kern Adult Education Network JPA to provide comprehensive services to 52 OSY in the amount not to exceed \$370,582; with awards subject to negotiations, funds available, and approval of the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,



Brandon J. Evans
Chief Workforce Development Officer

BJE:dh

Attachments:

- A) Funding Recommendations –Youth for Program Year 2026-27
- B) Description of Proposed Programs

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS
WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT - YOUTH PROGRAMS
JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027

AGENCY/ACTIVITY	Criteria Met	Funding Stream	Youth Funding Rec'd PY 2025-26	PY 2025-26 Planned Participants	PY 2026-27 REQUESTED	Net Change in 2025-26 Request	Proposed # Participants	Proposed Cost per Participant	PY 2026-27 RECOMMENDED Funding	% of Requested Funding	RECOMMENDED # Participants	RECOMMENDED Cost Per Participant
Request for Funding - In-School Youth Programs												
Kern County Superintendent of Schools	Yes	In-School Youth	\$288,102	65	\$293,306	\$5,204	65	\$4,512	\$293,306	100%	65	\$4,512
Kern High School District	Yes	In-School Youth	\$300,000	80	\$300,000	\$0	80	\$3,750	\$300,000	100%	80	\$3,750
Total In-School			\$588,102	145	\$593,306	\$5,204	145	\$4,092	\$593,306	100%	145	\$4,092
Request for Funding - Out of School Youth Programs												
FIELD	Criteria Met											
	Yes	Out-of-School Youth	\$200,445	20	\$200,445	\$0	20	\$10,022	\$200,445	100%	20	\$10,022
Kern High School District	Yes	Out-of-School Youth	\$344,540	50	\$344,540	\$0	50	\$6,891	\$344,540	100%	50	\$6,891
Proteus, Inc.	Yes	Out-of-School Youth	\$229,425	42	\$229,425	\$0	42	\$5,463	\$229,425	100%	42	\$5,463
West Kern Adult Education Network IPA	Yes	Out-of-School Youth	\$370,582	52	\$370,582	\$0	52	\$7,127	\$370,582	100%	52	\$7,127
Total Out-of-School			\$1,144,992	164	\$1,144,992	\$0	164	\$6,982	\$1,144,992	100%	164	\$6,982
Total Youth			\$1,733,094	309	\$1,738,298	\$5,204	309	\$5,626	\$1,738,298	100%	309	\$5,626

Out-of-School % 66%
In-School % 34%

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) YOUTH PROGRAMS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2026-2027

Comprehensive In-School Youth (ISY) Programs

1. Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Funding Request: \$293,306

Proposed Number to Serve: 65

Areas served: Court and Community Schools in Bakersfield and throughout Kern County

Jobs Plus!: The primary goal of the program is to prepare high-risk youth who have been expelled from home schools, parenting youth, foster youth, homeless youth, or incarcerated youth with 21st Century Employment Readiness Skills. To reach this goal the program focuses on the following: attainment of basic work-readiness skills, job shadowing to learn more about career options, training programs for specific industry skills (e.g. medical or construction), development of a job portfolio (i.e. resume, additional training certificates), graduation from high school, enrollment in college/trade school or enter an entry level job and successfully embarking on a career or academic path for the future.

Recommended at full amount of request.

2. Kern High School District- Quest 4 Success

Funding Request: \$300,000

Proposed Number to Serve: 80

Areas served: Arvin, Bakersfield (multiple locations), Lamont, and Shafter.

Quest 4 Success: This program offers eligible participants attending one of the Kern High School District's continuation schools an opportunity to receive enhanced employability and life skills education followed by subsidized work experience. Participants attend an after-school class providing instruction in employability and life skills for which they earn up to 11 credits per semester. Participants who successfully complete the course are placed in a local worksite to receive subsidized work experience. Upon completion of Quest 4 Success, participants who are not college-bound are provided information and priority access to the Kern High School District's Out-of-School Youth program.

Recommended at full amount of request.

Comprehensive Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Programs

1. Farmworkers Institute of Education and Leadership Development

Funding Request: \$200,445

Proposed Number to Serve: 20

Areas served: Arvin, Bakersfield, California City, Delano, Lamont, McFarland, Tehachapi, and Wasco

WIOA Out-of-School Youth: This program is designed to provide educational services, workforce training services, paid employment, case management, financial literacy, and other activities to young adults. Some of the educational services include the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and an opportunity to enter a Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway. These CTE pathways offer participants the chance to earn certificates of completion, industry recognized certifications, and/or college credit. FIELD also provides the participants with paid work-experience opportunities in either recycling, natural resources, or firefighting. Program components also include 21st Century Work Skills and job readiness.

Recommended at full amount of request.

2. Kern High School District- KernWorks!

Funding Request: \$344,540

Proposed Number to Serve: 50

Areas served: Greater Bakersfield, Lamont, Arvin, Shafter, and Kern River Valley

KernWorks!: This program is designed to provide high school graduates and non-graduates with the skills they need to become self-sufficient. Most of these youth are not college-bound, so vocational education is coupled with paid work experience to create a pathway into the workforce. Vocational training programs are developed based on current labor market needs and the interests of the youth with current options including medical front office, auto tech, business services, customer service-retail, and warehousing/logistics. Youth attend vocational training followed by paid work experience after which they attend Job Search "Boot Camp" in preparation for unsubsidized employment, or, alternately, enrollment in post-secondary education or advanced training.

Recommended at full amount of request.

3. Proteus, Inc.

Funding Request: \$229,425

Proposed Number to Serve: 42

Areas served: North Kern County- Delano, McFarland, Wasco, Shafter, and surrounding areas

WIOA Out-of-School Youth: This program provides services to the north side of Kern County to meet the needs of communities in outlying areas. The program provides opportunities for youth to acquire the educational and skill competencies necessary for successful transition into careers, future education, and training. Participants are offered the opportunity to gain paid-work experience (PWEX) for a total of 160 hours/8 weeks in various career pathways. Participants also have the opportunity to job-shadow for hands-on experience. In addition to PWEX and job-shadowing opportunities, youth are provided access to career counseling, job search assistance, and supportive services. Proteus uses a two-pronged approach engaging youth with immediate employer-driven, work-based learning components and on-going counseling emphasizing the benefits of continuing education.

Recommended at full amount of request.

4. West Kern Adult Education Network Joint Powers Authority

Funding Request: \$370,582

Proposed Number to Serve: 52

Areas served: West Kern County- Taft, Maricopa, Fellows, Elk Hills, McKittrick, Tupman, Derby Acres, Dustin Acres, and Valley Acres

West Kern Youth at Work: This program provides services to the west side of Kern County where the communities have a high poverty level. The program serves at-risk youth by building upon the capacity of the local areas to expand employment opportunities through work-based learning, work experiences, and educational options. Youth are provided access to soft skills training, job search assistance, CTE pathways, a youth counselor, and GED preparation. West Kern Youth at Work supports a system strategy that leads to community involvement.

Recommended at full amount of request.



May 27, 2026

Kern, Inyo and Mono
Workforce Development Board
1600 E. Belle Terrace
Bakersfield, CA 93307

PRELIMINARY FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT ADULT, DISLOCATED WORKER, AND COMBINED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2026-2027

Dear Board Member:

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), a Request for Proposals (RFP) is required at least once every four years to procure providers of services. On March 9, 2023, Employers' Training Resource (ETR) issued an RFP to procure WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Combined Programs and Services for Program Year (PY) 2023-2024 for Kern County. The RFP stated, "Upon approval of the Workforce Development Board (WDB), funded programs may be eligible for refunding for up to three subsequent program years before another RFP is issued." For PYs 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, your Board approved the use of the Request for Refunding (RFR) process, and on December 17, 2025, your Board again approved the use of the RFR process for PY 2026-2027, which represents the final year of refunding allowed under the current RFP. The RFR was issued on February 17, 2026, and two agencies representing four programs and services were eligible for refunding consideration.

RFR Process

Keeping in mind that currently funded programs and services were already thoroughly evaluated by members of your WDB and other non-ETR persons during the RFP review, the RFR application required applicants to provide updated threshold documents, descriptions of any proposed program or services changes, PY 2026-2027 participant goals, and proposed budgets. The RFR also noted that the WIOA funding allocations would not likely be known until late spring 2026, and that agencies were advised to request funding near the same level as the current year and to justify any increases. ETR would reserve the right to make changes to funding awards once the WIOA allocations are received. Agencies were authorized to reduce participant enrollment goals or the percentage of personnel assigned to WIOA functions to lower expenses.

A committee of ETR staff reviewed the applications in terms of the following:

- Necessity and reasonableness of costs/proposed budget;
- Proposed changes to current program or service;
- Monitoring findings;
- Continued need for the program or service;
- Demonstrated success in the provision of services;
- Proposed participant outcomes and goals; and
- Issues or problems reported by ETR staff.

RFR Programs and Services

RFR applications were received for the following programs and services with requested funding totaling \$1,295,412. As the agencies requested the same amounts as their PY 2025-2026 contracts, this represents a net zero percent change.

Provider of Career Services for the Delano AJCC, Including On-The-Job Training

- Proteus, Inc. - WIOA AJCC Operations/Direct Placements - \$307,073 requested
- Proteus, Inc. - On-the-Job Training (OJT) Operations - \$400,000 requested

Paid Work Experience

- Proteus, Inc. – Delano/Northern Kern County area - \$134,237 requested
- Kern High School District – Bakersfield area - \$454,102 requested

The attachment includes descriptions of the programs and services; any program changes; and current, requested and recommended funding.

Work Experience Wage Cap Increase Beginning Program Year 2026

ETR is implementing a change to its WIOA Adult Work Experience programs beginning July 1, 2026, and the agencies were notified of this change in the RFR. The work experience wage cap has been increased from \$5,000 to \$6,000 per participant. Agencies are required to pay participants the applicable minimum wage for their industry, with the lowest current minimum wage being \$16.90 per hour. It will be the agency's responsibility to document the correct minimum wage for each participant to determine the maximum number of hours the participant may work without exceeding the \$6,000 cap.

Preliminary Funding Recommendations

All programs and services were determined eligible and recommended for refunding at a total of \$1,295,412. Additionally, these activities may also serve clients eligible under non-WIOA formula grants such as the Displaced Oil and Gas Workers Fund, Farmworker Advancement Program, and the Opportunity Young Adult Career Pathway Program; therefore, further adjustments to final contract amounts may be warranted. The State recently released WIOA formula planning allocations for PY 2026-27, and the Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties Adult and Dislocated Worker allocation is \$12,298,545. The Adult allocation is \$5,887,776 and the Dislocated Worker allocation is \$6,410,769. This is an increase of \$230,944 from the current year's allocation.

As a reminder, Workforce Development Areas are required to expend at least 30 percent of their WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker funds on training. ETR has primarily relied on OJTs to meet this requirement. OJTs help meet the in-demand needs of area employers who, in turn, provide training for in-demand jobs. Funds spent on participants attending Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) trainings also contribute to the training percentage requirement.

Notification to Agencies

RFR applicants were provided a copy of the Program and Business Services (PBS) Committee's letter with preliminary funding recommendations and were informed of the Committees and Board meeting dates and the appeal process. A representative from Proteus, Inc. attended the April 30, 2026 PBS meeting, and there were no objections to the funding recommendations. The PBS Committee concurred with the funding recommendations outlined in this letter.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Workforce Development Board authorize the distribution of \$1,295,412 in PY 2026-2027 WIOA funds, subject to negotiations, funds available, and approval of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, to the following: Proteus, Inc. to provide Career Services at the Delano AJCC (\$307,073), OJTs (\$400,000), and Paid Work Experience (\$134,237) in the total amount not to exceed \$841,310; and Kern High School District to provide Paid Work Experience in the amount not to exceed \$454,102.

Sincerely,



Brandon J. Evans
Chief Workforce Development Officer

BJE: cw

Attachment

**ADULT, DISLOCATED WORKER AND COMBINED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
PROGRAM YEAR 2026-2027**

PROVIDER OF CAREER SERVICES FOR DELANO AJCC AND OJT

Proteus, Inc.

1. WIOA AJCC Operations/Direct Placements

As the current provider of career services at the Delano America's Job Center of California (AJCC), Proteus, Inc. proposes to continue operating the AJCC and providing comprehensive WIOA services to low-income adults, dislocated workers (DW), and agricultural workers. Proposed operation of the AJCC includes overall facilities management such as overseeing maintenance, security, and infrastructure. WIOA service delivery includes all aspects of the AJCC such as outreach and recruitment, greeting customers, registration, ETR network partner referrals, orientations, resume writing, job readiness workshops, job search assistance, career counseling, case management, supportive services, direct job placement, entry into unsubsidized employment via On-the-Job Training, Occupational Skills Training, Work Experience, follow-up services, and all other WIOA services as needed. AJCC Adult/DW line staff are Bilingual in English and Spanish. Services will continue to align with Kern County's efforts to invigorate the local economy and improve opportunities for North Kern County residents and enhance their quality of life.

Currently, Proteus staff are housed at 707 Main Street in Delano, which is a temporary location. A new facility located at 325 Dover Street has been leased by the County of Kern, and it is expected that all functions of the AJCC will be available at this larger location by July 1, 2026. Per its RFR application, Proteus has expended \$122,370 (40%) of its budget and has enrolled 103 (86% of plan) through January 2026.

Proposed Changes

Proteus is proposing to enroll 91 new participants and carry-over 12 participants from PY 2025-2026. Examples of proposed budget changes reflect a decrease in staff salaries and benefits, and an increase in facility expenses and indirect costs.

Current, Requested and Recommended Funding

PY 2025-2026 Funding: \$307,073

PY 2026-2027 Funding Requested: \$307,073

PY 2026-2027 Funding Recommended: \$307,073

2. On-the-Job Training

Proteus, Inc. plans to continue offering On-the-Job Training (OJT) contracts to employers in Kern County. OJTs will be provided in accordance with customer aptitude, goals of the Individual Employment Plan (IEP), and employer needs. Proteus develops and negotiates OJT contracts utilizing its existing network of employers and provides counseling during and after completion. Per its RFR application, Proteus has expended \$260,693 (77%) of its budget and has 48 (104% of plan) participants enrolled through January 2026.

Proposed Changes

"No reflected changes other than a slight increase in staffing. Budget remains the same as the total approved for 2025-2026." Examples of proposed budget changes reflect a decrease in staff salaries and benefits and an increase in facility expenses and indirect costs. The proposed number of OJT participants is 36 new and 12 carry-overs.

Current, Requested and Recommended Funding

PY 2025-2026 Funding: \$340,000

PY 2025-2026 Funding with Amendment: \$400,000

PY 2026-2027 Funding Requested: \$400,000

PY 2026-2027 Funding Recommended: \$400,000

SUBSIDIZED WORK EXPERIENCE

1. Proteus, Inc.

Proteus, Inc. proposes to continue providing planned and structured work-based learning opportunities via Work Experience (WEX) to eligible adults and dislocated workers. As a current provider of WEX in Kern County, the agency has developed a solid reputation with local employers and is trusted in the communities it serves. Proteus will serve as the employer of record for participants as they learn the skills necessary to secure long-term employment in high-demand and high-growth occupations and industries. WEX opportunities will occur in a variety of already established workplaces that include public, private, and non-profit employers as well as other potential employers established by Proteus' Employer Service Representatives (ESRs). Proteus will place participants at worksites related to the training they received or aligned with the client's skills and interests. WEX will provide participants with the opportunity to attain skills, develop appropriate work habits via a work readiness module and encourage career pathways that will enable them to secure and retain unsubsidized employment and lead to self-sufficiency. Proteus has expended \$94,052 (71%) of its budget and has enrolled 10 (100% of plan) participants through April 2026.

Proposed Changes

"Increased the hourly wage to better reflect current minimum wage." Examples of proposed budget changes reflect a decrease in staff benefits and salaries and an increase in facility expenses and indirect costs. The proposed number of new participants to be served is 10.

Current, Requested and Recommended Funding

PY 2025-2026 Funding: \$134,237

PY 2026-2027 Funding Requested: \$134,237

PY 2026-2027 Funding Recommended: \$134,237

2. Kern High School District

Kern High School District's (KHSD) Careers 4 Success (C4S) program is a paid work experience program designed to provide work readiness skills to participants ages 18 and older. The program is intended to help participants gain valuable work experience, build their resumes, and improve their chances of finding long-term employment. The program offers a variety of work placements across a range of occupations and worksites, which are carefully selected based on participants' English language skills, occupational skills, interests, transportation, and childcare needs. Placements may include positions in industries such as healthcare, hospitality, manufacturing, and customer service. Overall, the C4S program is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive and supportive experience that prepares them for success in their chosen career paths. The KHSD also serves as the employer of record. Per its RFR application, KHSD has expended \$250,399 (55%) of its budget and have enrolled 27 (108% of plan) participants through January 2026.

Proposed Changes

"The proposed number of participants may be subject to change based on the number of training hours each participant receives. For example, participants in the Bakersfield Adult School CNA program complete approximately 130 hours due to the need for instructor supervision during clinical. In such cases, these participants would remain under the earnings cap of \$6,000 per individual, allowing for the potential to serve additional participants. The Career Resource Department (CRD) would like to increase enrollment to serve additional participants from the Café 1600 program in PY 2026-2027. CRD will continue to adhere to ETR's Work Experience Policy." Examples of proposed budget changes reflect a decrease in facility expenses and staff salaries and benefits and an increase in participant wages and benefits. The planned number of participants to be served is 30.

Current, Requested and Recommended Funding

PY 2025-2026 Funding: \$454,102

PY 2026-2027 Funding Requested: \$454,102

PY 2026-2027 Funding Recommended: \$454,102



May 14, 2026

Kern, Inyo, and Mono
Workforce Development Board
1600 E. Belle Terrace
Bakersfield, CA 93307

REQUEST FOR RETROACTIVE APPROVAL OF THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO INCREASE PROGRAM YEAR 2025-2026 SUBGRANT AGREEMENT WITH PROTEUS, INC. FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING SERVICES

Dear Board Member:

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) guidelines, service providers are procured through a Request for Proposals (RFP) every four years, with refunding allowed for up to three subsequent program years upon Board approval. Employers' Training Resource (ETR) issued an RFP on March 9, 2023, for Program Year 2023–2024, and your Board approved refunding for PY 2024–2025 and PY 2025–2026.

On February 18, 2026, your Board approved the first amendment for Proteus, Inc., the provider of Career Services for Delano AJCC to increase funding for On-the-Job Training (OJT) services. Increasing the funds from Proteus, Inc. - On-the-Job Training Operations - \$340,000 to \$400,000.

Since that amendment, Proteus, Inc. has exhausted the increased allocation due to continued employer demand and OJT placements in the Delano area. To ensure continuity of services and avoid disruption for participants, a second amendment is requested to increase OJT funding by an additional \$30,000 in Adult and Dislocated Worker funds. This change would bring the total OJT operations funding for Program Year 2025–2026 to \$430,000.

OJT continues to be one of the most effective training strategies available under WIOA. Employers participating in OJT sign a commitment to hire participants upon successful completion of training, ensuring that public funds directly support long-term employment outcomes. Additionally, OJT expenditures contribute to meeting the State's required training expenditure thresholds, helping the Board maintain compliance while expanding high-quality, work-based learning opportunities for job seekers.

The Executive Committee concurred with the recommendation outlined in this letter.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Workforce Development Board retroactively approve the second amendment to increase funding to Proteus, Inc. by \$30,000 for On-the-Job Training services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandon J. Evans', is positioned above the printed name.

Brandon J. Evans
Chief Workforce Development Officer

BJE:pg



May 27, 2026

Kern, Inyo, and Mono
Workforce Development Board
1600 E. Belle Terrace
Bakersfield, CA 93307

RATIFICATION OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS REQUEST

Dear Board Member:

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) allows the transfer of funds between the Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams in order to maximize customer service and provide Local Workforce Development Boards (Local Board) with greater flexibility to meet local needs. Under WIOA Section 133(b)(4), up to 100 percent of Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker funds may be transferred between the two programs upon approval by the State.

The Employment Development Department (EDD) Workforce Services Directive (WSD) 22-09, issued on January 30, 2023, provides the guidance and establishes the procedures regarding the transfer of funds. The transfer request must include the following:

1. **Transfer of Funds Request:** Describes who is making the request, the transfer amount, and why the transfer is being requested. This document requires signature approval of the Local Area administrator/designee.
2. **Participant Plan:** Describes how the transfer of funds impacts the Local Area's participants.
3. **Budget Plan:** Describes how the transfer of funds impacts the Local Area's budget using the plus and minus format.

The Local Area must submit the transfer request in writing to their EDD Regional Advisor. Requests must contain the reason(s)/rationale for the transfer. Local Areas should consider the following when providing a justification for the transfer: changes in planned services to eligible participants; unexpected layoffs requiring additional funds; changes in the goals for serving eligible participants; changes in labor market conditions; the effect of the transfer on jointly funded employment and training programs in the local America's Job Center of California system; the effect on existing agreements for the delivery and/or coordination of employment and training services; the effect on current state and Local

Area employment and training systems; and the effect on the employment and training needs of eligible participants in the Local Area. All transfer requests must be approved and signed off by the Local Board prior to submitting the transfer request to the EDD Regional Advisor.

Based on current workforce training needs in our Local Area, it has become necessary to request a transfer of \$700,000 from Dislocated Worker funding to Adult funding for Program Year 2025-2027. Due to the time-sensitive nature of the request and the need to promptly submit the transfer documentation to EDD, the Executive Committee acted on behalf of the Workforce Development Board on May 14, 2026, and approved the submission of the Transfer of Funds Request to the EDD Regional Advisor.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Workforce Development Board ratify the Executive Committee's approval of the Transfer of Funds Request of \$700,000 from Dislocated Worker funding to Adult funding for Program Year 2025-2027.

Sincerely,



Brandon J. Evans
Chief Workforce Development Officer

Attachment

BJE:ll

Transfer of Funds Request

1. Local Area Kern, Inyo and Mono Workforce Development Area

2. Subgrant Number AA611009 3. Request Date 05/14/2026

4. Program Year 25-27 5. Transfer Request No 01

6. Direction of Transfer (Check One):

Adult program to Dislocated Worker program Dislocated Worker program to Adult program

☐ 201 → 299 ☐ 501 → 499

☐ 202 → 200 ☒ 502 → 500

7. Amount of Transfer \$700,000

8. Contact Person Jeremy Shumaker

9. Contact Person's Telephone Number 661-635-2758

10. All transfer requests must be approved and signed off by the Local Board.

Date of Local Board meeting to discuss transfer 05/14/2026

Date of Local Board meeting to approve transfer 05/14/2026

11. By signing below, the Local Area Administrator/Designee requests a transfer of funds and certifies that this transfer request was approved at the Local Board meeting on the date indicated above.

Signature _____

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

12. Taking into account the factors described under the Transfer of Funds Procedures section on page 4 of the Directive, describe the Local Board's reasoning to request a transfer of funds.

Training needs of eligible participants in the Local Area.

Transfer of Funds Request Participant Plan

Local Area: Kern, Inyo and Mono Workforce Development Area
Prepared Date 5/6/2026

Enter the number of individuals in each category.

TOTALS FOR PY 2025	ADULT	DW
1. Registered Participants Carried in from PY 2024	286	49
2. New Registered Participants for PY 2025 to 5-4-2026	442	75
3. Total Registered Participants for PY 2025 to 5-4-2026 Line 1 plus 2	728	124
4. Exiters for PY 2025 to 5-4-2026	327	65
5. Registered Participants Carried Out to PY 2025 (Line 3 minus 4)	401	59

PROGRAM SERVICES		
6. Career Services	728	124
a. Basic Career Services	712	123
b. Individualized Career Services	688	118
7. Training Services	154	33

Jeremy Shumaker, Assistance Director of Administration and Finance
Contact Person, Title
661-635-2758
Telephone Number
Comments:

Transfer of Funds Request Budget Plan

Local Area <u>Kern, Inyo and Mono Workforce Development Area</u>	Date Prepared <u>5/8/2026</u>
---	--------------------------------------

Subgrant Number <u>AA611009</u>	Grant	Adult to DW	DW to Adult
Year of Appropriation <u>2025</u>	Code	☐ 201 → 299 ☐ 202 → 200	☐ 501 → 499 ☒ 502 → 500

FUNDING IDENTIFICATION	ADULT	DW
1. Formula Allocation	5,482,800	4,137,198
2. Prior Adjustments - Plus or Minus	0	0
3. Previous Amounts Transferred	0	0
4. Current Amount to be Transferred	700,000	(700,000)
5. TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE (Lines 1 through 4)	6,182,800	3,437,198

TOTAL ALLOCATION COST CATEGORY PLAN		
6. Program Services (Lines 6a through 6c)	5,564,300	3,093,479
a. Career Services	2,420,896	1,787,343
b. Training Services	2,363,197	274,976
c. Other	780,207	1,031,160
7. Administration	618,500	343,719
8. TOTAL (Lines 6 plus 7)	6,182,800	3,437,198

QUARTERLY TOTAL EXPENDITURE PLAN (cumulative)		
9. September 2025	443,497	0
10. December 2025	1,619,993	867,747
11. March 2026	1,972,581	1,171,006
12. June 2026	1,750,000	717,684
13. September 2026	1,250,000	
14. December 2026	1,210,219	
15. March 20__		
16. June 20__		

COST COMPLIANCE PLAN (maximum 10%)		
17. % for Administration Expenditures (Line 7/Line 5)	10.00%	10.00%

<u>Jeremy Shumaker, Assistance Director of Administration and Finance</u>	<u>661-635-2758</u>
Contact Person, Title	Telephone Number

Comments

Joana Rees, Chair

▪ Kaina Pereira, Executive Director

▪ Gavin Newsom, Governor

April 22, 2026

Kern, Inyo, Mono Workforce Development Board
Honorable Brandon Evans, Chief Workforce Development Officer
1600 East Belle Terrace,
Bakersfield, CA 93307

SUBJECT: Application for Certification of High Performing Board

Dear Mr. Evans,

The California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) has received and carefully assessed your application for certification as a High Performing Board under the California Unemployment Insurance Code Section 14200.

This letter is to inform you that the Kern, Inyo, Mono Workforce Development Board met the eligibility requirements for certification. This determination was made by applying the criteria and evaluating the specific requirements included in Workforce Services Directive 25-11, dated January 23, 2026.

Therefore, your application requesting designation as a High Performing Board for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029 has been approved.

If you have any questions, please contact your Employment Development Department Regional Advisor.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Kaina Pereira', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Kaina Pereira, Executive Director

cc: Brandon Evans, Chief Workforce Development Officer– Kern, Inyo, Mono WDB
Stewart Knox, Secretary – Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Javier Romero, Deputy Director – Workforce Services Branch

**KERN, INYO & MONO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
SPECIAL SESSION
PROGRAM AND BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE
DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS
APRIL 30, 2026**

Members Present: Lizette Gomez, Leo Bautista, Brian Holt, Linda Parker, Alissa Reed, Brenda Mendivel, Kenny Spratt.

Member Absent: Brandon Evans, Richard Chapman, Jeremy Tobias.

Staff Present: Marsha Manos, Chase Wheeler, Scott Couture, Jeremy Shumaker, Danette Williams, Jasmine Guerra.

Guest Present: Joshua Rudnick, Andrew Hamilton, Lita San Pedro.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Lizette Gomez.

Introduction

Members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Approval of November 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Leo Bautista and seconded by Kenny Spratt. All ayes. Motion passed.

Preliminary Funding Recommendations for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Combined Programs and Services for Program Year 2026-2027

Chase Wheeler informed the committee that every four years, service providers are selected through a procurement process. On December 17, 2025, the Board approved using the RFR process again for Program Year 2026-2027. ETR received two applications for funding:

Career Services for Delano AJCC (including On-The-Job Training)

- Proteus, Inc. – AJCC Operations/Direct Placements: \$307,073 requested
- Proteus, Inc. – On-the-Job Training Operations: \$400,000 requested

Paid Work Experience

- Proteus, Inc. – Delano/Northern Kern County: \$134,237 requested
- Kern High School District – Bakersfield: \$454,102 requested

All programs and services were found eligible and recommended for funding, totaling \$1,295,412.

Chase recommended the committee propose to the WDB that \$1,295,412 in WIOA funds for PY 2026-2027 be distributed, pending negotiations, available funds, and approval from the Kern County Board of Supervisors, as follows: Proteus, Inc. for Career Services at Delano AJCC (\$307,073), On-The-Job Training (\$400,000), and Paid Work Experience

(\$134,237)—totaling up to \$841,310; and Kern High School District for Paid Work Experience, up to \$454,102. Following a period of clarifying questions, Brenda Mendivel moved to approve the staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Alissa Reed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Request For Retroactive Approval to Apply for the Regional Coordination Project – Program Year 2025-26

Chase Wheeler clarified that the letter before them was incorrectly proposed as an action item and that it was for informational purposes only. Chase then advised that ETR had applied for the Regional Coordination Project grant for Program Year (PY) 2025–26 on behalf of the Kern/Inyo/Mono Workforce Development Area in partnership with Kern Community College District and Adventist Health. ETR proposed to serve approximately 50 participants. In accordance with the RCP Solicitation for Proposals, this project includes a 20 percent leveraged resource commitment. For this proposal, the 20 percent match will be met through employer contributions provided by Adventist Health. ETR requested \$1,000,000 in funding. The anticipated grant period of performance is 18 to 24 months, with an estimated start date of June 2026, pending award notifications.

Workforce Development Board Chair – Discussion Items

- Strategic Plan Update: Marsha Manos announced that meetings will now be held quarterly. The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2026.
- Bakersfield Women's Conference: Lizette Gomez provided an update to the committee.
- Workforce Development Dashboard: Danette Williams shared that staff updated the dashboard per the board's request.

ETR Director Updates – Discussion Items

- Board Protocols: Jeremy Shumaker explained the new process for presenting funding and contract information to the Board and Standing Committees.
- CWDB Follow-up Visit: Jasmine Guerra informed the committee of an upcoming visit from Diane Brown and requested site recommendations.
- Kahoot!: Chase Wheeler introduced Kahoot!, an interactive tool that ETR plans to use in future meetings.

Committee Member Comments

Jeremy Shumaker informed the committee that ETR planned to be in the new Delano location by July 1, 2026.

Miscellaneous Filings

Motion to receive and file the Attendance Report and 2026 Meeting Schedule made by Brenda Mendivel and seconded by Kenny Spratt. All ayes. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

**KERN, INYO AND MONO
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
YOUTH COMMITTEE
DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS
APRIL 29, 2026**

Members Present: Alyssa Cervantes, Brian Holt, Dale Countryman, Jovon Dangerfield, Norma Rojas-Mora, Olivia Kent, Priscilla Sanchez,

Members Absent: Brandon Evans and Priscilla Varela.

Staff Present: Aisia Fulmer, Marsha Manos, Diana Hernandez, Scott Couture, Chase Wheeler, Danette Williams, Sarah Woodman, Jeremy Shumaker.

Guests Present: Joshua Rudnick, Andrew Hamilton and Ramiro Emigdio.

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

*Unexcused Absence

Introduction

Staff and guests introduced themselves.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of the January 20, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Olivia Kent moved to approve meeting minutes. Alyssa Cervantes seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion carried.

Preliminary Allocation and Funding Recommendations for Youth Programs Funded Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for Program Year 2026-27

Diana Hernandez reported that at the December 17, 2025, meeting, the Workforce Development Board approved a Request for Refunding process for In- and Out-of-School Youth programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for Program Year 2026-27. Most agencies requested the same funding as last year, except KCSOS, which asked for a slight increase. Agencies received information about the application process, meeting dates, and appeals. The recommended funding totals are \$593,306 for ISY, \$1,144,992 for OSY, and \$1,738,298 for all youth programs. Dale Countryman moved to approve staff's recommendation to allocate WIOA funding as follows: 1) Kern County Superintendent of Schools—up to \$293,306 for 65 ISY participants; 2) Kern High School District—up to \$300,000 for 80 ISY; 3) FIELD—up to \$200,445 for 20 OSY; 4) Kern High School District—up to \$344,540 for 50 OSY; 5) Proteus, Inc.—up to \$229,425 for 42 OSY; 6) West Kern Adult Education Network JPA—up to \$370,582 for 52 OSY. Awards are subject to negotiations, available funds, and approval from the Kern County Board of

Supervisors. Jovon Dangerfield seconded. Alyssa Cervantes abstained. All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Departmental Updates – Discussion Items

- Youth Agency Quarterly Report: Diana Hernandez reported that through March 31, 2026, youth agencies submitted actual expenditures equal to 56% of the total allocated. Additionally, In-School Youth providers expended 54% of their allotted funds and enrolled 38% of their participants into work experience. Out-of-School Youth providers expended 57% of their allotted funds and enrolled 30% of their participants into work experience.
- EPIC Youth Participant Life Cycle Presentation – Aisia Fulmer

Miscellaneous Filings Receive and File – Action Item

Priscilla Sanchez made a motion to receive and file the following documents:

- Youth Committee Attendance Report
- Kern, Inyo and Mono Workforce Development Board and Committees' Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2025

Olivia Kent seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion carried.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

**KERN, INYO AND MONO
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS
MAY 14, 2026**

Members Present: Alissa Reed, Brandon Evans, Brenda Mendivel, Cody Brooks, Greg Knittel, Kelly Bearden, Kenny Spratt, Kristen Watson, Leo Bautista, Lizette Gomez, and Michelle Warren.

Members Absent: Devin Brown, Kristen Watson, Norma Rojas-Mora, and Season Susko.

Staff Present: Marsha Manos, Jeremy Shumaker, Chase Wheeler, Danette Williams, Bernice Nunez, Candy Gettman, Anne Meert, Susie Vasquez, and Danette Williams.

Guests Present: Andrew Hamilton, Priscilla Sanchez, Joshua Rudnick, Lita San Pedro, Yovani Jimenez.

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

*UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

Introduction

Committee members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of February 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Lizette Gomez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Michelle Warren seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously. The motion passed.

Request for Retroactive Recommendation for Approval of Second Amendment to Increase Program Year 2025-2026 Subgrant Agreement with Proteus, Inc. for On-The-Job Training Services

Brandon Evans informed the committee that on February 18, 2026, your Board approved the first amendment for Proteus, Inc., the provider of Career Services for Delano AJCC to increase funding for On-the-Job Training services. Increasing the funds from Proteus, Inc. - On-the-Job Training Operations - \$340,000 to \$400,000 and since that time Proteus has exhausted the increased allocation due to continued employer demand and OJT placements in the Delano area. Brandon said that OJT continues to be one of the most effective training strategies available under WIOA. Lita San Pedro added that Proteus works with several employers that utilize OJTs and that the program is extremely successful. Kenny Spratt made a motion to approve the staff's recommendation. Brenda Mendivel seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously. The motion passed.

Transfer of Funds Request

Linda Lara explained to the committee that WIOA allows for a transfer of funds between the Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams to maximize customer service and provide Local Workforce Development Boards with greater flexibility to meet local needs. Linda also said that EDD Directive 22-09 issued on January 30, 2023, provides the guidance and establishes the procedures regarding the transfer of funds and based on current workforce training needs in our Local Area, it has become necessary to request a transfer of \$700,000 from Dislocated Worker funding to Adult funding for Program Year 2025-2027. After clarifying questions, Greg Knittel made a motion to approve the staff's recommendation. Kelly Bearden seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously. The motion passed.

Workforce Industry Discussion Prompts: Brandon proposed that the committee consider “What do you see as the number one workforce challenge your industry will face in the next three years?” as a discussion prompt at the next Workforce Development Board meeting. After a brief discussion the committee agreed.

Workforce Development Board Chair Discussion Items

One-Stop Operator Expectations – Brenda Mendivel said that she wanted to see more engagement from the One-Stop-Operator. Brandon explained the purpose of having a one-stop-operator and the requirement to have one in our workforce development area. Brenda said that she would reach out to him to see how the Board could be of more support to him in his role.

Local Provider Application Report – Jeremy Shumaker reported that after meeting with the vetting committee and completing a comprehensive review of the applications that had been submitted it was determined that none of applications met the requirements to be funded as a Local Provider.

ETR Director Discussion Items – Oral Report

Workforce Development Financial Report – Linda Lara provided an overview of the financial report that was included in the packet.

WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker Training Requirement Expenditure – Linda Lara provided an overview of the training report that was included in the packet.

Board and Committees Meeting Schedule – Brandon Evans wanted to committee to be aware that the scheduled dates and times may be moved if a conflict arises and that staff would work to avoid that in the future.

Kahoot! Discussion – Chase Wheeler led a quiz on based on the training requirement discussion.

Workforce Development Board Composition – Brandon informed the committee that there were several organizations that have shown interest in sitting on the board.

Committee Member Comments

Alissa Reed asked for data on placements and the success of OJTs and ITAs. She also asked if there was a way to track how many people are turned away from orientation and if it is a continual problem.

Kenny Spratt added that it is important to look at the length of training programs.

Miscellaneous Filings

Alissa Reed made a motion to receive and file the Workforce Development Board and Committee’s Attendance Reports and the Kern, Inyo and Mono Workforce Development Board and Committee’s Meeting Schedule Calendar Year 2026. Michelle Warren seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to approve the motion. The motion passed.

There was no further business, so the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties AJCC System**Quarterly Report – Q3 (January – March 2026)**

1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of activities, discussions, and system-level progress for the America's Job Center of California (AJCC) network serving Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties during the third quarter of Program Year 2025–2026 (January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026).

AJCC partner meetings were held on the following dates:

- January 20, 2026
- February 17, 2026
- March 17, 2026

These monthly meetings continue to serve as a critical mechanism for aligning workforce system partners, strengthening communication, and improving coordination of services in accordance with WIOA and the AJCC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

2. Q3 Highlights and Accomplishments**Establishment of System-Level Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**

During Q3, the AJCC partner group formally aligned on the following Key Performance Indicators:

- Percentage of partners attending monthly AJCC meetings
- Implementation of at least two continuous improvement ideas per quarter
- Increase in the number of customers enrolled in career pathway programs
- Increase in the number of customers successfully placed into employment

These KPIs establish a clear performance framework and shift the AJCC system toward measurable outcomes.

Electronic Referral System – Testing Phase Achieved

The Electronic Referral System progressed into the **testing phase during Q3**, representing a key milestone in improving inter-agency coordination.

The Q4 objective is to:

- Fully implement the system
- Train all partners

- Achieve consistent usage across all agencies

This system is expected to significantly improve referral tracking, service alignment, and customer outcomes.

Successful Workforce Engagement – JobFest 2026

The Bakersfield JobFest event demonstrated strong system performance:

- 137 employers participated
- 4,657 job seekers attended (more than double the prior year)
- Immediate hiring outcomes, including 41 hires from a single employer
- Over 1.8 million outreach impressions

Additional enhancements included resource support services to remove barriers to employment, further strengthening outcomes.

3. AJCC Partner Meetings Summary

January 20, 2026 – Partner Meeting

Attendance:

- 5 of 21 partner organizations represented
- 12 total participants

Meeting Purpose and Structure

The January meeting served as a **reset and direction-setting session** for the calendar year, aligning with Workforce Development Board expectations and reinforcing the purpose of the AJCC partnership.

Agenda priorities included:

- Reinforcing the importance of partner attendance and MOU compliance
 - Introducing the need for **shared system goals and measurable outcomes**
 - Initiating discussion on **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**
 - Exploring ways to improve meeting value and engagement (e.g., guest speakers, structured content)
-

Key Discussion Areas

1. Attendance as a System Issue

- Attendance was explicitly identified as a concern at the start of the year
 - Discussion focused on whether to establish attendance targets and how to improve participation
 - Recognition that attendance is not only a compliance issue, but a **core driver of system coordination**
-

2. Introduction of System Goals and Measurement

- The One-Stop Operator introduced the concept of setting **shared, trackable goals across all partners**
- Early framing included:
 - o Attendance targets
 - o System accomplishments that could be tracked and celebrated
 - o Aligning AJCC activities with Workforce Board expectations

This represents the first step toward transitioning the AJCC system into a **performance-based model** rather than a discussion-based forum

3. Workforce System Insight – Healthcare Sector Presentation

A detailed presentation on the Rural Health Transformation Grant provided a real-world example of system challenges and opportunities:

- \$233 million in funding available for California rural healthcare infrastructure
- Focus areas:
 - o Behavioral health
 - o Women's health
 - o Workforce shortages

Key system-level insights:

- Hospitals historically operated in isolation; this was the first coordinated regional effort
- Workforce pipeline gaps require alignment with education providers
- Technology gaps (e.g., lack of integrated electronic health records) limit coordination

- Geographic barriers significantly impact service delivery (multi-hour travel for care)

The presentation reinforced the need for:

- Regional collaboration
 - Integrated systems
 - Workforce pipeline development
-

4. Collaboration Opportunities

- Connection to K-16 initiatives and career pathway development
 - Emphasis on partnerships between:
 - o Healthcare providers
 - o Community colleges (e.g., Cerro Coso)
 - o Workforce agencies
-

Analysis

The January meeting established the **strategic direction for Q3**, with a clear shift toward:

- Defining system goals
- Improving attendance
- Increasing meeting value

However, attendance (5 of 21 partners) significantly limited system representation, indicating that **the very issue being discussed (attendance) was already impacting system effectiveness**.

February 17, 2026 – Partner Meeting

Attendance:

- 8 of 21 partner organizations represented
-

Meeting Purpose and Structure

The February meeting focused on **operationalizing the ideas introduced in January**, specifically:

- Finalizing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Aligning AJCC goals with State Plan objectives

- Strengthening collaboration and information-sharing across partners
-

Key Discussion Areas

1. Formalization of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The group discussed and refined potential KPIs, including:

- % of partners attending monthly meetings
- Number of continuous improvement ideas implemented per quarter
- % of referrals successfully received by partner agencies
- Increased participation in career pathways
- Use of guest speakers to improve engagement and knowledge sharing

This marked a significant transition from general discussion to **defining measurable system performance metrics**.

2. Referral System Gap Identified

A major system gap discussed:

- No standardized way to track referrals between partner agencies
- Lack of visibility into whether customers are successfully connected to services

The discussion highlighted the need for:

- A formal referral tracking system
- Shared accountability across agencies

This directly supports the later advancement of the Electronic Referral System into testing.

3. Data and Measurement Challenges

Key issues raised:

- Data exists across agencies but is not shared or centralized
- Concern about duplicating data collection efforts
- Need for a system to aggregate and report outcomes

This reinforced the importance of building infrastructure to support KPI tracking.

4. Collaboration and Resource Sharing

Significant collaboration activity occurred during this meeting:

- K-16 funding opportunities shared (up to \$500,000 for career pathways and internships)
- Grant opportunities across multiple sectors (STEM, engineering, workforce development)
- Regional workforce collaboration meetings discussed

Additionally, a proposal was made to develop an **asset map of workforce services**, allowing partners to:

- Identify available services across agencies
 - Improve referral accuracy
 - Better serve customers
-

5. Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

Discussion emphasized:

- Bringing in guest speakers (e.g., California Workforce Association)
 - Sharing regional workforce updates
 - Using meetings as a platform for continuous learning
-

Analysis

The February meeting represents a **critical transition point**:

- From ideas → to defined system structure
- From discussion → to measurable goals

Attendance improved (from 5 to 8 partners), indicating some increased engagement. However:

- Participation remained below 40%
- Key system decisions were made without full partner representation

This highlights a continued disconnect between **system expectations and partner engagement**.

March 17, 2026 – Partner Meeting

Attendance:

- 7 of 21 partner organizations represented
-

Meeting Purpose and Structure

The March meeting shifted focus from planning to **execution and real-world outcomes**, with an emphasis on:

- Partner updates
 - Workforce event outcomes
 - Program implementation updates
 - Ongoing KPI alignment
-

Key Discussion Areas

1. JobFest 2026 – Major System Outcome

The most significant highlight of Q3:

- 137 employers participated (increase of 32)
- 4,657 job seekers attended (more than double the prior year)
- Immediate hiring outcomes:
 - 41 hires made by a single employer (Hard Rock Casino)
- 146 participants attended through targeted workforce programs (e.g., “golden ticket” access)
- 1,864,487 outreach impressions generated

Innovations introduced:

- Resource support area (removing employment barriers)
- Professional services (headshots, clothing assistance)
- Increased coordination across workforce partners

This event demonstrated **high system performance when coordination is strong**.

2. Workforce Disruption and Rapid Response

- Over 300 workers impacted by layoffs in the Ridgecrest area
 - Rapid Response efforts mobilized to support affected individuals
 - Demonstrates system responsiveness to economic disruptions
-

3. EDD Program Changes

- Transition from workshop-based model to **case management approach (RESEA)**
 - Increased individualized support for job seekers
 - Reinforces the need for stronger coordination across partners to support clients
-

4. Compliance and Service Delivery Reviews

- Review of services for:
 - Migrant and seasonal farmworkers
 - Veterans (priority of service)

These reviews ensure alignment with federal and state workforce requirements.

5. Workforce Training and Career Pathways

Partners highlighted ongoing programs, including:

- Job Corps vocational training (ages 16–24)
 - Adult education programs (ESL, healthcare training, technical certifications)
 - Apprenticeship opportunities (e.g., electrical training)
 - Community college workforce pathways
-

Analysis

The March meeting demonstrated a clear shift toward **execution and measurable outcomes**:

- Strong workforce event results
- Active response to layoffs
- Implementation of new program models

However, attendance declined slightly (8 → 7 partners), indicating:

- No sustained improvement in engagement
 - Continued limitation in full system coordination
-

4. System-Level Observations

Attendance and Engagement Remain a Critical Gap

Across all three meetings, partner attendance remained significantly below expectations:

- January: 5 of 21 partners
- February: 8 of 21 partners
- March: 7 of 21 partners

This indicates a persistent gap in engagement and participation, which directly impacts system coordination and effectiveness.

Progress Toward a Structured, Data-Driven System

The establishment of KPIs and the advancement of the Electronic Referral System indicate a clear shift toward measurable performance and accountability.

Improved Collaboration, but Limited System Integration

While collaboration is improving, the system still lacks:

- Fully integrated referral tracking
- Consistent data sharing across agencies

These gaps limit the ability to fully coordinate services and measure outcomes.

Emerging Outcomes Demonstrate System Potential

Events such as JobFest show that when coordination is strong, the system can deliver significant workforce outcomes.

5. Challenges and Barriers

- Low and inconsistent partner attendance
 - Limited engagement from a significant portion of required partners
 - Incomplete implementation of referral tracking systems
 - Lack of standardized data sharing
 - Staffing and capacity constraints across agencies
-

6. Continuous Improvement Actions and Q4 Strategy

1. Targeted Outreach to Improve Partner Attendance

To address the ongoing attendance gap, the One-Stop Operator (Gary Beaudette), in coordination with Monica Because, will take direct action in Q4 to improve partner participation.

This will include:

- Direct outreach to partner agencies that have not been consistently attending
- Identification of root causes for non-attendance (e.g., scheduling conflicts, lack of perceived value, communication gaps)
- Troubleshooting barriers with each partner agency
- Reinforcing MOU expectations for participation
- Encouraging designation of alternate representatives when primary contacts are unavailable

The goal is to significantly increase partner attendance and engagement in Q4.

2. Full Implementation of the Electronic Referral System

- Transition from testing to full deployment
 - Ensure all partners are trained and actively using the system
-

3. KPI Tracking and Reporting

- Begin formal tracking of established KPIs
 - Develop reporting structure for ongoing measurement
-

4. Strengthen Meeting Value and Engagement

- Introduce guest speakers and relevant presentations
 - Focus meetings on actionable outcomes and shared learning
-

5. Increase Career Pathway Participation and Job Placement Outcomes

- Expand collaboration with education and training providers
 - Build on successful workforce events and employer engagement strategies
-

7. Conclusion

Q3 marked a transition toward a more structured and performance-driven AJCC system.

The identification of shared KPIs, advancement of the Electronic Referral System, and strong workforce event outcomes demonstrate meaningful progress. However, low partner attendance remains a significant barrier to full system effectiveness.

Focused efforts in Q4—particularly targeted outreach to non-participating partners and full implementation of system tools—are expected to improve coordination, increase engagement, and drive stronger workforce outcomes across Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties.

Kern, Inyo & Mono Workforce Development Board PBS Committee Attendance 2026					
P = Present		U=Unexcused	X=Cancelled		
A = Excused Absence					
Member		1/15/26	4/30/26	8/13/26	11/5/26
First	Last	PBS	PBS	PBS	PBS
Alissa	Reed	P	P		
Brandon	Evans	P	A		
Brenda	Mendivel	P	P		
Brian	Holt	P	P		
Jeremy	Tobias	P	A		
Kenny	Spratt	P	P		
Linda	Parker*	P	P		
Lizette	Gomez	P	P		
Richard	Chapman	A	A		
Leo	Bautista*	P	P		
*Non-WDB					

Kern, Inyo & Mono Workforce Development Board PBS Committee Attendance 2025					
P = Present	U=Unexcused	X=Cancelled			
A = Excused Absence		1/16/25	5/7/25	8/14/25	11/6/25
Member					
First	Last	PBS	PBS	PBS	PBS
Alissa	Reed	X	P	P	P
Brandon	Evans	X	P	P	P
Brenda	Mendivel	X	P	P	P
Brian	Holt	X	P	A	P
Jeremy	Tobias	X	A	P	A
Linda	Parker*	X	P	P	P
Richard	Chapman	X	P	A	P
Leo	Bautista*	X	A	A	A
*Non-WDB					

Kern, Inyo & Mono Workforce Development Board Youth Committee Attendance 2026					
P = Present		U=Unexcused	X=Cancelled		
A = Excused Absence					
Member		1/20/26	4/29/26	8/19/26	11/12/26
First	Last	YC	YC	YC	YC
Alyssa	Cervantes	P	P		
Brandon	Evans	P	A		
Brian	Holt	P	P		
Dale	Countryman*	P	P		
Greg	Terry*	A	RETIRED		
Jovon	Dangerfield	P	P		
Norma	Rojas-Mora	A	P		
Olivia	Kent	P	P		
Priscilla	Sanchez	P	P		
Priscilla	Varela	P	A		
*Non-WDB					

Kern, Inyo & Mono Workforce Development Board Youth Committee Attendance 2025					
P = Present	U=Unexcused	X=Cancelled			
A = Excused Absence		1/24/25	5/7/25	8/20/25	11/12/25
Member					
First	Last	YC	YC	YC	YC
Alyssa	Cervantes				A
Brandon	Evans	X	P	A	P
Brian	Holt	X	P	P	A
Dale	Countryman*	X	P	P	P
David	Villarino*	X	U	REMOVED	
Greg	Terry*	X	U	A	A
Jovon	Dangerfield				A
Karine	Kanikkeberg*	X	RESIGNED		
Leticia	Perez	X	U	RESIGNED	
Norma	Rojas-Mora	X	P	A	P
Olivia	Kent				P
Priscilla	Sanchez		Appt 5/28	P	P
Priscilla	Varela	X	A	P	P
Rosa	Chipres *	X	U	REMOVED	
Todd	Yepez	X	A	A	RESIGNED
*Non-WDB					

Kern, Inyo & Mono Workforce Development Board Executive Committee Attendance 2026					
P = Present		U=Unexcused	X=Cancelled		Special Session
A = Excused Absence					
Member		2/5/26	5/14/26	9/10/26	12/3/26
First	Last	EXEC	EXEC	EXEC	EXEC
Alissa	Reed	P	P		
Brandon	Evans	P	P		
Brenda	Mendivel	A	P		
Cody	Brooks	P	P		
Devin	Brown	A	A		
Greg	Knittel	P	P		
Kelly	Bearden	P	P		
Kenny	Spratt		P		
Kristen	Watson*	P	A		
Leo	Bautista**	P	P		
Lizette	Gomez	P	P		
Michelle	Warren	P	P		
Norma	Rojas-Mora	P	A		
Season	Susko	P	A		
*Non-WDB					
**Non-WDB as of 10/4/23					

Kern, Inyo & Mono Workforce Development Board Executive Committee Attendance 2025						
P = Present	U=Unexcused	X=Cancelled		Special Session		
A = Excused Absence		2/6/25	5/15/25	5/28/25	9/11/25	12/2/25
Member						
First	Last	EXEC	EXEC	EXEC	EXEC	EXEC
Alissa	Reed	P	P	P	P	P
Brandon	Evans	P	P	P	P	P
Brenda	Mendivel	P	P	P	P	P
Greg	Knittel				P	P
Ian	Journey	P	P	P	RESIGNED	
Kelly	Bearden	U	P	P	P	P
Kristen	Watson*	A	A	P	A	P
Leo	Bautista**	A	P	P	P	P
Lizette	Gomez	P	P	P	P	P
Norma	Rojas-Mora	U	P	P	A	P
Season	Susko				A	P
Todd	Yepez	A	P	P	RESIGNED	
*Non-WDB						
**Non-WDB as of 10/4/23						

Kern, Inyo & Mono Workforce Development Board Attendance 2025					
P = Present	U=Unexcused	X=Cancelled			
A = Excused Absence					
Member		2/18/26	5/27/26	9/23/26	12/16/26
First	Last	WDB	WDB	WDB	WDB
Alex	Haver	P			
Alissa	Reed	P			
Brandon	Evans	A			
Brenda	Mendivel	P			
Brian	Holt	P			
Chris	Gonzales	A			
Christina	Garza	P			
Clare	Pagnini	P			
Cody	Brooks	A			
Devin	Brown	P			
Greg	Knittel	P			
Jason	Smoot	A			
Jeremy	Tobias	P			
John	Moralez	P			
Julian	Najera	A			
Kelly	Bearden				
Kenny	Spratt	P			
Laura	Barnes	P			
Lizette	Gomez	P			
Michele	Warren	P			
Mikin	Plummer	P			
Mike	Beaumont	P			
Norma	Rojas-Mora	A			
Priscilla	Varela	A			
Randy	Martin	P			
Richard	Chapman	P			
Robert	Watson	P			
Scott	Odlin	P			
Season	Susko	P			
Steven	Gomez	A			

Kern, Inyo & Mono Workforce Development Board Attendance 2025					
P = Present	U=Unexcused	X=Cancelled			
A = Excused Absence		2/19/25	5/28/25	9/24/25	12/17/25
Member					
First	Last	WDB	WDB	WDB	WDB
Alex	Haver	P	P	P	P
Alissa	Reed	A	P	P	P
Brandon	Evans	P	P	P	P
Brenda	Mendivel	P	P	P	P
Brian	Holt	P	A	P	P
Bryan	Forrest	P	A	RESIGNED	
Chris	Gonzales	P	A	A	RESIGNED
Christina	Garza	P	P	A	P
Clare	Pagnini				A
Cody	Brooks	P	P	P	P
Devin	Brown				P
Greg	Gutierrez	A	A	RESIGNED	
Greg	Knittel	A	P	P	A
Ian	Journey, Chair	P	P	RESIGNED	
Jason	Smoot				P
Jeremy	Tobias	P	P	P	P
John	Moralez	A	P	P	P
Kelly	Bearden	P	P	A	P
Kenny	Spratt				P
Laura	Barnes	A	A	P	A
Lizette	Gomez	P	P	P	P
Michele	Warren	P	P	P	P
Mikin	Plummer				P
Mike	Beaumont	P	P	P	A
Norma	Rojas-Mora	P	P	A	P
Priscilla	Varela	P	P	A	P
Randy	Martin	P	P	A	A
Richard	Chapman	A	P	A	P
Robert	Watson				A
Scott	Odlin	P	P	P	P
Season	Susko	P	A	A	A
Steven	Gomez	A	A	P	P
Todd	Yepez	A	P	RESIGNED	

**KERN, INYO AND MONO
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND
COMMITTEES' MEETING SCHEDULE
CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

Program and Business Services Committee

**Employers' Training Resource 1600 E. Belle Terrace
2nd Floor Conference Room**

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 8 a.m.
Thursday, April 23, 2026, 8 a.m.
Thursday, August 13, 2026, 8 a.m.
Thursday, November 5, 2026, 8 a.m.

Youth Committee

**Employers' Training Resource 1600 E. Belle Terrace
2nd Floor Conference Room**

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 2 p.m.
Thursday, November 12, 2026, 2 p.m. (Due to Veterans Holiday)

Executive Committee

Recruitment Center – 1215 Olive Drive

Thursday, February 5, 2026, 8 a.m.
Thursday, May 14, 2026, 8 a.m.
Thursday, September 10, 2026, 8 a.m.
Thursday, December 3, 2026, 8 a.m.

Workforce Development Board

Recruitment Center – 1215 Olive Drive

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 7 a.m.
Wednesday, May 27, 2026, 7 a.m.
Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 7 a.m.
Wednesday, December 16, 2026, 7 a.m.



May 27, 2026

Workforce Development Board
1600 E. Belle Terrace
Bakersfield, CA 93307

APPROVE STAFF TO NOTIFY LOCAL BOARD DETERMINATION LIST APPLICANTS OF REVIEW COMMITTEE'S DENIAL

Dear Board Member:

Last summer, your board adopted the Local Board Determination policy. Following this, staff were assigned to develop an application process and gather board member volunteers for a review committee. The committee's role was to evaluate and score submitted applications, with their recommendations presented to the board for approval. Staff have received three applications so far.

The three applications included two from the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF) one for their Bookkeeping Program and one for their Office Clerical Program and one from Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) for their Truck Driving Program.

On May 8, 2026, the review committee met to assess and score the applications. Both applications from MAOF were denied because they did not reach the required passing threshold of 75%. The ABC Truck Driving Program application was referred back to staff for further questions due to concerns raised by the committee. Staff have since contacted ABC for additional information and will reconvene with the review committee to further discuss their application.

All three applications were also discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on May 14, 2026. The Executive Committee expressed no questions or concerns regarding the review committee's decisions.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your board authorize staff to formally notify the Local Board Determination applicants of the review committee's decision to deny their applications.

Sincerely,



Brandon J. Evans
Chief Workforce Development Officer

BJE:js

May 27, 2026

Kern, Inyo, and Mono
Workforce Development Board
1600 E. Belle Terrace
Bakersfield, CA 93307

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Board Member:

WIOA Policy Reauthorization Bill Update: A Stronger Workforce for America Act of 2026 H.R. 8210

On April 6, 2026, the House Education and Workforce Committee Chairman introduced the "A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA) of 2026" (H.R. 8210), the latest federal effort to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which has been expired since 2020. The proposal builds upon prior bipartisan negotiations from 2024 but introduces several significant policy and structural changes that may substantially impact workforce systems nationwide, including Local Workforce Development Areas.

Major Provisions Not in the 2024 Bicameral Text:

- **Transfer of Adult Education to the Department of Labor.** Title II of the bill transfers all functions of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor, effective one year after enactment.
- **AI Literacy.** Adds a new defined term for "AI literacy skills" referencing a federal AI literacy framework and incorporates AI literacy into adult education and digital literacy programs. This reflects post-2024 policy developments around artificial intelligence and was not addressed in the bicameral text.
- **Youth Apprenticeship Set-Aside.** Requires that at least 12.5% of the funds spent to meet the work experience spending floor be directed to apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships serving youth.

Notable Changes from 2024 Bicameral Text:

- **Renaming of the State Flexibility Pilot.** The 2026 bill keeps the bicameral “State Flexibility Pilot Authority” largely intact but renames it “Make America Skilled Again Grants,” preserving consolidated 5-year grants, broad waiver authority, and evaluation requirements while allowing up to 10 statewide and 8 local pilots.
- **“Out-of-School Youth” vs. “Opportunity Youth.”** The bicameral agreement renamed “out-of-school youth” to “opportunity youth.”

The bill keeps many of the workforce system changes included in the 2024 bicameral agreement, including the local area redesignation process, single state area provisions, and ongoing review timelines.

Relevant Provisions Carried Over from the Bicameral Agreement:

- Authorizes governors to reserve up to 10% of Title I formula funds, on top of the existing 15% statewide reserve for industry-specific skills initiatives and career pathway development, for a combined total of 25%
- Increases the allowable share of funds for incumbent worker training from 20% to 30%.
- Requires at least 50% of training expenditure requirement of adult and dislocated worker funds from 30%.
- Modifies the current youth funding requirements by reducing the statewide Out-of-School Youth spending requirement from 75% to 70%, while retaining existing local work experience spending benchmarks.
- Transitional jobs cap: increased from 10% to 15%.

Policy Direction and Implications

Our local workforce development area may face significant challenges in meeting the proposed 50% training expenditure requirement due to the substantial barriers many participants experience. We already face difficulties meeting the current 30% training expenditure threshold, in part because of challenges associated with getting programs approved on the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). In addition, activities such as work experience are not classified as training expenditures, and only limited supportive services qualify toward the requirement. If these services were reduced, many participants would be unable to begin or remain engaged in workforce activities.

We are also monitoring other areas of concern within the proposed legislation, including the increased Governor’s set-aside, which could reduce available funding for core service areas and impact overall service delivery.

It is important to note that this legislation is currently advancing as a Republican-only markup. While it may pass the House, it is expected to undergo substantial changes in the Senate. Our federal affairs team in Washington, D.C. does not anticipate the bill

moving beyond the House before Congress adjourns in October and shifts its attention to the midterm elections.

We will continue to keep your Board updated on legislative matters.

Sincerely,



Brandon J. Evans,
Chief Workforce Development Officer

BJE: jg

cc: Attachment A

Legislative Update: California Workforce Related Bills

Assembly Bill 2157 – Displaced Oil & Gas Worker Pilot Program: Extension & Assessment

Overview: AB 2157, introduced by Assemblymembers Connolly (D-San Rafael) and Bryan (D-Los Angeles) on February 18, 2026, seeks to transform California's Displaced Oil & Gas Worker Pilot Program into a permanent initiative. It removes the program's current sunset date of July 1, 2027, and establishes mechanisms to evaluate and redesign the pilot for long-term implementation.

Key Provisions

- **Sunset Date Removal:** Eliminates July 1, 2027, expiration, making the program permanent.
- Upon legislative appropriation, the Employment Development Department (EDD) must contract within 120 days with the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education to assess program effectiveness.
- EDD and UC Berkeley must collaborate to develop a design for evolving the pilot into a permanent workforce support program for fossil fuel workers transitioning amid the clean energy shift .
- **Reporting Requirement:** A formal assessment and recommended program design must be submitted to the Legislature within 18 months of the contract's execution

Kern County Impact: Ensures ongoing access to reemployment and retraining support for workers displaced by oil, gas, and refinery closures, particularly relevant as clean energy transitions impact local sectors. Supports strategic coordination with labor research institutions and leverages evidence-based redesign to inform local program implementation and funding priorities.

Legislative Status: On April 22, 2026, the Assembly Appropriations Committee held its first hearing on AB 2157 and placed the bill on the Suspense File for further fiscal review. On the same day, the Chairman of the Kern County Board of Supervisors submitted a letter of support for the measure to Assemblymembers Connolly and Bryan.

Assembly Bill 2300 – Workforce Development Applicable Law

Overview: Aims to modernize CalWIOA by streamlining workforce funding and administrative processes, increasing flexibility and responsiveness.

Key Provisions:

- Exempts local workforce grant distributions from state contracting rules and Department of General Services (DGS) oversight, simplifying fund flow
- Ensures grant disbursements to local workforce boards follow federal WIOA reporting, auditing, and accounting standards
- Empowers the Employment Development Department (EDD) to issue operational directives and guidance in collaboration with local boards

Kern County Impact: Supports more efficient delivery of services to underserved populations and enhances employer/board partnerships through streamlined administration.

Legislative Status: The bill is moving through the Assembly and is currently in the Appropriations suspense file after its first hearing on May 6, 2026. Prior to that, it advanced from Labor & Employment and was amended and re-referred as part of the standard committee process. As of February 2026, the bill is officially in print.

Senate Bill 845 – Youth Apprenticeship Act

Overview: Establishes a framework to modernize Career Technical Education (CTE), youth apprenticeships, and work-based learning for students in grades 7–12.

Key Provisions:

- Mandates that the Superintendent of Public Instruction update CTE curriculum standards every five years, incorporating input from CTE teachers, labor groups, and industry
- Expands authority for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), including special schools, to offer and grant credit for work-based learning beginning in grade 10
- Directs the CA Department of Education, Apprenticeship Standards, and Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to convene an interagency workgroup to develop occupational frameworks for youth apprenticeship

Kern County Impact: Aligns with regional needs in energy, logistics, infrastructure, and healthcare by offering structured career-entry opportunities to high school students.

Legislative Status: The bill has passed the Senate and is now in the Assembly, where it's in committee review. Its first scheduled Assembly hearing was canceled at the author's request, and it remains in the committee process.

KIM Workforce Development Board Financial Report

Program Year 2025/2026

Summary as of March 31, 2026

		Q1 Jul 25 - Sept 25			Q2 Oct 25 - Dec 25			Q3 Jan 26 - Mar 26		
WIOA Formula Grants	New Award	Carry-In	Reserves	Budget	Expended	% Exp.	Balance	Expended	% Exp.	Balance
Adult	6,807,672	469,886	680,767	6,596,791	2,029,491	30.76%	4,567,300	1,788,419	27.11%	2,778,881
Dislocated Worker	5,259,929	327,731	525,993	5,061,667	937,165	18.51%	4,124,502	946,494	18.70%	3,178,008
Youth	6,839,324	1,150,927	683,932	7,306,318	1,249,360	17.10%	6,056,958	1,391,097	19.04%	4,665,861
Rapid Response	281,188	-		281,188	92,537	32.91%	188,651	21,783	7.75%	166,868
Rapid Response Layoff Aversion	106,285	-		106,285	7,945	7.48%	98,340	-	-	98,340
Subtotal	19,294,398	1,948,544	1,890,693	19,352,249	4,316,498	22.30%	15,035,751	4,147,794	21.43%	10,887,958
								5,106,269	26.39%	5,781,689

		Q1 Jul 25 - Sept 25			Q2 Oct 25 - Dec 25			Q3 Jan 26 - Mar 26		
Non-Formula Grants	New Award	Carry-In	Reserves	Budget	Expended	% Exp.	Balance	Expended	% Exp.	Balance
AB 109 Base	883,858	31,002		914,860	250,217	27.35%	664,643	202,266	22.11%	462,377
AB 109 Contingency	-	262,000		262,000	-	-	262,000	-	-	262,000
CalFresh	284,539	-		284,539	-	-	284,539	2,317	0.81%	282,222
CalWORKS PWEX *	4,697,398	-		4,697,398	721,782	15.37%	3,975,616	1,203,747	25.63%	2,771,869
Displaced Oil & Gas Worker Fund	-	8,495,187		8,495,187	1,358,052	15.99%	7,137,135	1,160,856	13.66%	5,976,279
Earmark ValleyBuild Now *	-	25,629		25,629	10,486	40.91%	15,143	1,457	5.69%	13,686
Farmworkers Adv. Program (1.0) *	-	547,436		547,436	39,147	7.15%	508,288	109,444	19.99%	398,844
Farmworkers Adv. Program (2.0 Round 1)	-	351,474		351,474	13,322	3.79%	338,152	15,477	4.40%	322,675
Farmworkers Adv. Program (2.0 Round 2)	-	633,726		633,726	(0)	0.00%	633,726	(0)	0.00%	633,726
High Performing Board	-	5,556		5,556	-	-	5,556	-	-	5,556
HRCC: RWF Valleybuild *	207,210	88,133		295,343	29,210	9.89%	266,133	60,417	20.46%	205,716
La Cooperativa Dislocated Ag. *	-	234,907		234,907	82,507	35.12%	152,399	105,727	45.01%	46,672
Opportunity Young Adult Career (Round 1) *	-	494,723		494,723	20,014	4.05%	474,709	65,477	13.24%	409,232
Opportunity Young Adult Career (Round 2)	-	209,931		209,931	-	-	209,931	-	-	209,931
Opportunity Young Adult Career (Round 3)	-	1,257,069		1,257,069	-	-	1,257,069	-	-	1,257,069
P2E 2.0 *	-	75,888		75,888	8,114	10.69%	67,774	56,304	74.19%	11,470
SIC/KCCD	114,500	-		114,500	-	-	114,500	-	-	114,500
La Coop Response Response FY 25/26 *	50,000	-		50,000	-	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
RERP	-	287,463		287,463	105,195	36.59%	182,268	(15,657)	-5.45%	197,925
Transformative Climate Communities	286,160	-		286,160	1,179	0.41%	284,981	8,576	3.00%	276,405
Subtotal	6,523,665	13,000,123	-	19,523,787	2,639,225	13.52%	16,884,563	2,976,409	15.25%	13,908,153
								3,625,931	18.57%	10,282,223

Funding marked with an asterisk (*) is not eligible for carryover into FY 2026-27

		Q1 Jul 25 - Sept 25			Q2 Oct 25 - Dec 25			Q3 Jan 26 - Mar 26		
Adjustments / To Be Allocated		Expended	% Exp.	Balance	Expended	% Exp.	Balance	Expended	% Exp.	Balance
Pending Adjustments				-			-	(10,111)		10,111
CAO		(4,549)		(4,549)	279		(4,828)	4,828		(9,657)
Subtotal	-	(4,549)	-	(4,549)	2,578	-56.67%	(7,127)	11,969	-263.11%	(19,096)
								(26,346)	579.18%	7,251
Grand Total	25,818,063	14,944,118	1,890,693	38,871,488	6,958,300	17.90%	31,913,187	7,136,172	18.36%	24,777,015
								8,705,853	27.28%	16,071,162

	FY 25-26	Carry-In	Total Funds	25-26 Budget
Formula Funds	19,294,398	1,948,544	21,242,942	19,352,249
Non-Formula Funds	6,523,665	12,995,574	19,519,238	19,519,238
	25,818,063	14,944,118	40,762,180	38,871,488

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Worker Activities Final Allocations
Program Year 2026-27

Local Area	Round 1			Round 2		
	Youth	Adult	Dislocated Worker	Adult	Dislocated Worker	Grand Total
Alameda	\$2,553,260	\$426,169	\$874,072	\$1,853,725	\$3,190,464	\$8,897,690
Anaheim City	\$745,973	\$137,079	\$214,066	\$596,256	\$781,366	\$2,474,740
Contra Costa	\$2,337,975	\$416,066	\$742,453	\$1,809,779	\$2,710,039	\$8,016,312
Foothill	\$754,899	\$150,198	\$197,973	\$653,323	\$722,625	\$2,479,018
Fresno	\$6,192,005	\$1,078,075	\$1,441,090	\$4,689,350	\$5,260,147	\$18,660,667
Golden Sierra	\$1,044,806	\$201,068	\$384,291	\$874,594	\$1,402,706	\$3,907,465
Humboldt	\$537,063	\$86,075	\$91,836	\$374,403	\$335,212	\$1,424,589
Imperial	\$2,851,134	\$517,556	\$658,347	\$2,251,237	\$2,403,043	\$8,681,317
Kern, Inyo, and Mono	\$6,017,179	\$1,100,572	\$1,378,625	\$4,787,204	\$5,032,144	\$18,315,724
Kings	\$856,164	\$168,769	\$208,815	\$734,101	\$762,198	\$2,730,047
Los Angeles City	\$16,791,941	\$3,079,436	\$3,538,179	\$13,394,760	\$12,914,767	\$49,719,083
Los Angeles County	\$14,184,081	\$2,528,089	\$2,765,566	\$10,996,537	\$10,094,637	\$40,568,910
Pacific Gateway	\$1,770,550	\$330,857	\$376,044	\$1,439,141	\$1,372,603	\$5,289,195
Madera	\$835,174	\$156,841	\$199,622	\$682,217	\$728,645	\$2,602,499
Merced	\$2,029,941	\$350,848	\$468,861	\$1,526,099	\$1,711,399	\$6,087,148
Mother Lode	\$417,724	\$93,052	\$111,021	\$404,750	\$405,240	\$1,431,787
Monterey	\$2,288,215	\$414,723	\$701,751	\$1,803,937	\$2,561,473	\$7,770,099
Workforce Alliance of the North Bay	\$1,252,177	\$242,707	\$368,522	\$1,055,714	\$1,345,149	\$4,264,269
North Central Counties Consortium	\$1,293,034	\$240,635	\$347,917	\$1,046,700	\$1,269,939	\$4,198,225
NoRTEC	\$2,590,010	\$470,838	\$563,725	\$2,048,022	\$2,057,662	\$7,730,257
NOVA	\$1,805,468	\$329,952	\$865,311	\$1,435,207	\$3,158,487	\$7,594,425
Oakland City	\$1,262,220	\$247,604	\$389,245	\$1,077,015	\$1,420,791	\$4,396,875

Orange	\$4,310,600	\$747,410	\$1,458,968	\$3,251,039	\$5,325,402	\$15,093,419
Richmond City	\$290,414	\$58,861	\$88,050	\$256,029	\$321,394	\$1,014,748
Riverside	\$8,135,430	\$1,453,107	\$2,086,558	\$6,320,642	\$7,616,181	\$25,611,918
Sacramento	\$4,382,133	\$833,865	\$1,172,193	\$3,627,097	\$4,278,641	\$14,293,929
Santa Ana City	\$712,256	\$127,362	\$170,869	\$553,993	\$623,694	\$2,188,174
Santa Barbara	\$1,589,281	\$200,234	\$308,957	\$870,968	\$1,127,728	\$4,097,168
San Benito	\$271,546	\$49,052	\$81,508	\$213,364	\$297,513	\$912,983
San Bernardino	\$7,386,323	\$1,310,195	\$1,697,059	\$5,699,011	\$6,194,464	\$22,287,052
South Bay	\$2,028,769	\$391,949	\$512,381	\$1,704,876	\$1,870,249	\$6,508,224
Santa Cruz	\$1,348,804	\$184,895	\$309,961	\$804,248	\$1,131,394	\$3,779,302
San Diego	\$8,221,870	\$1,473,751	\$2,267,539	\$6,410,439	\$8,276,781	\$26,650,380
SELACO	\$1,626,691	\$300,107	\$350,892	\$1,305,387	\$1,280,798	\$4,863,875
San Francisco	\$2,022,156	\$385,001	\$718,539	\$1,674,657	\$2,622,752	\$7,423,105
San Joaquin	\$3,183,875	\$583,941	\$844,284	\$2,539,991	\$3,081,737	\$10,233,828
San Jose - Silicon Valley	\$2,781,363	\$463,562	\$952,884	\$2,016,373	\$3,478,137	\$9,692,319
San Luis Obispo	\$898,602	\$114,492	\$135,565	\$498,011	\$494,828	\$2,141,498
Solano	\$1,245,606	\$243,609	\$358,461	\$1,059,636	\$1,308,425	\$4,215,737
Sonoma	\$1,151,519	\$205,941	\$309,737	\$895,791	\$1,130,578	\$3,693,566
Stanislaus	\$2,398,443	\$442,577	\$647,225	\$1,925,094	\$2,362,446	\$7,775,785
Tulare	\$4,051,620	\$724,500	\$947,346	\$3,151,389	\$3,457,924	\$12,332,779
Verdugo	\$1,195,871	\$238,063	\$315,527	\$1,035,513	\$1,151,711	\$3,936,685
Ventura	\$2,090,070	\$348,309	\$637,454	\$1,515,056	\$2,326,780	\$6,917,669
Yolo	\$1,109,566	\$132,715	\$189,304	\$577,274	\$690,982	\$2,699,841
Total	\$132,843,801	\$23,780,707	\$33,448,593	\$103,439,949	\$122,091,275	\$415,604,325