

Fund for Affected Oil & Gas Workers



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This grant program offers support and training for oil and gas workers affected by layoffs, refinery closures, workforce reductions, or industry transitions. It guides them toward new career paths in five high-growth sectors: transportation, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, energy, and construction.

What are the specifics of the program?

This grant is expected to have a significant impact by providing training, upskilling, or placement opportunities to a minimum of 200 participants in quality jobs with sustainable wages. The project will focus on supporting displaced oil and gas workers, ensuring their successful placement over two years. The WDBCCC will offer in-house courses, as well as training and work opportunities through partner organizations aligned with many of the occupations that displaced oil and gas workers are likely to pursue. Expected outcomes include: 70% job placement rate, 60.5% credential rate; and 60.78% gain in measurable skills.

Why is the program important?

The Covid-19 pandemic ushered in record low levels of gasoline consumption, with an initial sharp decrease beginning in March 2020 due to pandemic lockdowns and then more gradual decreases in the years following as fewer Americans commuted to work, according to the Energy Information Administration. In addition to pandemic-related decreases in refinery activity, California's Just Transition was introduced in 2022, a 12-year state roadmap to phase out fossil fuels while also transitioning many of the state's 112,000 oil and gas workers to high-wage jobs in more sustainable industries. One-third of California's refineries are located in Contra Costa County.

Who are the community partners for the program?

The WDBCCC will partner with the Association of Manufacturers Bay Area (AMBayArea), Contra Costa Community College District, the Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC) and Bay Area Economic Institute to achieve the program goals.