



# NEWS RELEASE

## Workforce Development Board

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## Federal grant makes free job training available for local residents

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*\$2 Million National Emergency Grant funds are awarded to San Bernardino and Riverside County Workforce Investment Boards*

**SAN BERNARDINO, CA (March 9, 2015)**—The County of San Bernardino Workforce Investment Board announced that it has been awarded, in partnership with Riverside County, a \$2 million Job Driven National Emergency Grant from the Department of Labor. The funds will make additional On-the-Job Training, classroom training and employment services available free of charge to businesses and job seekers in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

The On-the-Job Training program is a key component of the services offered to local businesses by the Workforce Investment Board. This program reimburses employers for a portion of the wages paid to a new hire during their initial months while they train on the job. The employer can be paid up to 50 percent of a new employee's salary for about three months.

"Hiring and training new employees can be a financial drain to a business. The On-the-Job Training program allows companies to grow by hiring new employees when needed, and gives them time to become a contributing member of the team," said Sandy Harmsen, Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board. "Using grants like this allows our local businesses to invest in the right people and train them well." Along with On-the-Job Training, the grant also pays for classroom training to prepare job seekers for careers in one of the region's top demand industries outlined by the board: logistics, healthcare, manufacturing, construction and energy.

"Arming our unemployed residents with the skills they need to secure employment and helping our businesses hire the people they need is a core function of the Workforce Investment Board," said County Board of Supervisors Chair James Ramos. "This \$2 million grant allows this organization to better carry out its mission and improve our local economy in the process."

