



For Immediate Release  
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**Richmond Awarded \$575,000 Grant for Employment Services for COVID-19-Impacted Workers**

*Additional grant of \$162,000 to help provide basic needs to underserved populations impacted by pandemic*

May 12, 2020 – The City of Richmond and its Workforce Development Board (WDB) are pleased to announce that a grant of \$575,000 has been awarded to the City to assist local residents who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City received notification of the grant award on May 8. This grant is from Federal funding sources, directed through the California Employment Development Department (EDD). It will be used to provide workforce development and supportive services for up to 125 participants, with the goal of rapidly preparing them for new employment opportunities.

Services will include: an assessment of participants' current experience and skills; resume and job application support, career planning, interview preparation, and support with job placement and retention; information about job sectors with new employment opportunities; and on-the-job-training and career technical education (provided by contracted partners). Supportive services for participants will include: funds for work clothing and tools; support necessary for remote training and work such as high-speed internet connections and access to a computer; transportation; and childcare.

Recruitment for this program starts immediately. Richmond residents who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic are invited to apply for participation in this program by calling 510-307-8014.

*“With over 11,000 layoffs in Richmond due to the pandemic, these and other grant funds are critically important in helping people gain the tools they need to return to the workforce,”* said Tom Butt, Mayor of the City of Richmond. *“The City is working hard to gain other grant funding for these purposes, while our Employment and Training Department is extremely busy providing the services and support to community members that will help our local economy move toward recovery.”*

In addition to that grant, the City's RichmondWORKS career center program received a \$162,000 grant from the EDD and the State Labor and Workforce Development Agency. That grant is aimed at providing supportive services to underserved populations, particularly



Richmond's English-language learners, who have been severely impacted by the closure of local businesses. RichmondWORKS was one of just 42 entities selected statewide to receive this emergency funding.

Funds from this grant will provide up to \$800 per qualified participant for basic needs such as childcare, housing and utility expenses, and transportation costs. In addition, funding assistance for equipment and digital services necessary for teleworking may be available. This program will be of particular assistance to hourly workers in the restaurant, retail, and service sectors. Richmond residents may contact RichmondWORKS staff at (510) 307-8014 to inquire about this program, and for job search assistance or to seek guidance with filing an unemployment insurance claim.

For more information about the City of Richmond, its programs, services, community, amenities, and history, please visit [ci.richmond.ca.us](http://ci.richmond.ca.us).

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