

**TO: Workforce Development Board**

**DATE: 04/12/2018**

**FROM: Workforce Investment Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: 2018 Disability Employment Accelerator 2.0**

**PROPOSED MOTION (S): For Information Only & Discussion.**

**DISCUSSION:** Workforce Investment efforts in Merced County will be boosted by the recent award of the 2018 Disability Employment Accelerator 2.0. This grant is intended to build upon the previously awarded Disability Employment Initiative, for which all goals were exceeded. This grant is specifically targeted at helping college graduates with disabilities to find employment, and is an award in the amount of \$250,000.00.

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DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

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## 2018 DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT ACCELERATOR 2.0 INFORMATION SHEET

Currently, Merced County has a higher percentage of residents with disabilities (11.8%) than the statewide average (6.8%).<sup>1</sup> To help address this situation, Merced County (through Worknet) applied for, and was awarded the 2018 Disability Employment Accelerator 2.0 Grant (DEA) in the amount of \$250,000.00. This grant is intended to serve forty (40) participants with disabilities and is specifically targeted for college graduates. The DEA Grant will provide participants with the following services:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short term prevocational training</li> <li>• Minimum of 40 participants to be served</li> <li>• 50% (20 participants with disabilities) must be college graduates</li> <li>• Total number of completing earn-and-learn is 15 and 7 out of the 15 must be college graduates with disabilities</li> <li>• Average wages rate expected at placement is \$13.00 per hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive Services</li> <li>• East/West DiverseAbility Hiring Fair</li> <li>• Minimum of 20 participants must be in an earn-and-learn/work base training.</li> <li>• Total entering employment is 30</li> </ul>
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This DEA Grant is a continuation of the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) that Merced County was awarded in October of 2014. The goals of the DEI grant were exceeded as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 130 participants served (only 90 required)</li> <li>• 84 entered training</li> <li>• Accessibility equipment purchased for Worknet offices to improve accessibility</li> <li>• Quarterly business breakfasts held concerning employing those with disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75 entered employment</li> <li>• First ever DiverseAbility Fair held, serving more than 300 members of the public and 37 businesses</li> </ul>
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<sup>1</sup> Data is from the United States Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/AGE765210/06.06047>



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This grant is a further opportunity to sustain a proven model to assist those with disabilities to enter into employment.

