

CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Grant Award Offers -- 2026 Q1					Disclaimer: This roster includes all award offers.
Project Type	Applicant	Project Name	County	Award Offer	Project Description
Business Development	3:10 Timber Services Inc.	3:10 Timber Services Inc. - Expansion of In-Woods Hazardous Fuels Reduction Capacity in Mariposa County	Fresno Madera Mariposa Merced Tuolumne	\$ 132,859	3:10 Timber Services Inc. is a licensed hazardous fuels reduction contractor operating in Mariposa County's Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone since 2021. Currently operating at full capacity with a single CAT 275 XE mastication unit and primary operator, the company has completed more than 140 acres of hazardous fuels reduction work within approximately 10 months while maintaining an active backlog of 50+ acres of funded, ready-to-proceed projects experiencing scheduling delays due to limited equipment capacity. This project funds the purchase of a second CAT 275 XE with Forestry Land Management Package and HM418 Masticating Head, and a Yanmar VIO50-6A compact excavator for steep-terrain support operations. These acquisitions are expected to increase treatment capacity by approximately 100-150 additional acres annually, representing approximately 400-600 additional acres treated over the anticipated grant performance period, while improving project timelines, supporting workforce expansion, and reducing the current project backlog.
Business Development	Absolute Tree Service	Expansion of Mobile Biomass Processing Infrastructure	Madera	\$ 177,661	Purchase and deploy a Bandit 20XP tracked wood chipper to expand mobile biomass processing capacity for wildfire resilience projects, increase beneficial utilization of woody biomass, and support rural forestry workforce retention and job growth.
Business Development	El Dorado Forest Solutions, Inc.	El Dorado Forest Solutions Mastication Equipment for Increased Capacity	El Dorado Stanislaus	\$ 400,000	El Dorado Forest Solutions (EDFS) requests funds to purchase a Tigercat LX825E with 4154-15 Mulching Head. The unit options include a secure drive train and 3 year/6K hour engine warranty. This purchase will significantly increase the capacity of this small newly acquired business and roughly double the annual treatment acreage. Currently EDFs operates two Forestry Machines, a 2024 Takeuchi TL12 and a 2023 PrimeTech PT-175 and treats 400 acres per year. The Tigercat capabilities far exceed these machines and is expected to treat an additional 600 acres annually. The equipment will be utilized on hazardous fuels and forest health projects, working in high priority WUI areas. Much of the current work of EDFs is related to home hardening and small landowner assistance, which will continue, however, with the addition of the Tigercat, larger projects will be pursued, and contracts are presently being developed with landowners to provide much needed treatments.
Business Development	Happy Camp Community Action, Inc	Happy Camp Biomass Utilization & Mill Site Redevelopment Project	Siskiyou	\$ 499,100	The Happy Camp Former Mill Site Reactivation Project will redevelop a portion of a former plywood mill log yard to support forest restoration utilization and rural economic resilience in Siskiyou County, California. The project includes grading, surfacing, drainage, truck circulation improvements, a truck scale, open-sided covered storage, fire suppression infrastructure, and supporting utility improvements necessary to reactivate the site for wood products and biomass handling operations. The project is intended to support hazardous fuels reduction and restoration activities by improving local infrastructure needed to receive, stage, process, and distribute restoration-derived forest products and biomass materials. The project builds upon ongoing business planning, engineering, and supply analysis efforts currently underway and represents a phased implementation step toward re-establishing forest sector infrastructure within a historically active wood products site.

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Business Development	Rath Industries, Inc.	Rath Sawmill Upgrade	Shasta	\$ 520,434	Rath Industries, Inc. (Rath) is an existing 5.02 MMBF/year capacity lumber and custom milling facility in Redding and Anderson, Shasta County, that has been in operation since 2015. Rath received prior CAL FIRE and USFS funding and has invested heavily in modern wood-processing infrastructure to improve manufacturing efficiency, increase product recovery, and expand markets for lower-value and salvage timber generated from wildfire recovery and forest management projects. Rath is requesting funding to upgrade its existing West Mizer WB 2000 sawmill to optimize production flow, improve worker safety, automate material handling, and support future expansion. Rath will also consolidate all operations to its Anderson facility to reduce operational inefficiencies, eliminate unnecessary transportation between sites, and support California's clean-air and greenhouse-gas reduction goals. Manufacturing will increase to 9 MMBF/year log scale of wood products and 1,100 - 1,600 BDT of merchantable residuals. The project will facilitate forest restoration on 2,000 acres/year.
Business Development	Sequoia Forest Products	Arcata Mill Modernization: Advanced Wood Product Grading and Throughput Expansion	Humboldt	\$ 400,000	Sequoia Forest Products LLC requests \$400,000 in CAL FIRE Business Development funding to modernize our Arcata, CA sawmill by integrating a Raptor Integration BoardScanner-Q optical grade scanning array and WEBSort software. This advanced digital scanning system replaces manual lumber grading, permanently clearing a critical throughput bottleneck at the lower end of the mill. By automating 360-degree fiber optimization, the facility can rapidly process highly variable, small-diameter, and non-traditional restoration logs. This infrastructure creates a vital economic off-ramp for underutilized wood generated by wildfire mitigation and forest health projects across public, private, and Tribal lands. Instead of being left to rot or open-pile burned, this restoration fiber is manufactured into high-grade, carbon-sequestering climate-smart wood products, directly supporting California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan while safeguarding 60 local family-wage jobs.
Business Development	Sonoma County Regional Parks	Sonoma County Regional Parks Firewood Business Development	Sonoma	\$ 240,400	Sonoma County Regional Parks has been actively engaged in reducing fuel loads throughout our park system with the ultimate goal of reintroducing good fire to our fire adapted landscapes as long-term maintenance. This project focuses on purchasing firewood processing equipment that would allow Regional Parks to use logs from forest fuel reduction and forest management activities to create firewood. Regional Parks staff from our Maintenance Division, Natural Resources Division and from our Youth Crew workforce development program would run the equipment. The firewood generated from fuel reduction or hazard tree removal activities would then be sold at Regional Parks campgrounds that include Gualala Point, Stillwater Cove, Doran Beach, and Spring Lake Regional Parks. Revenue generated from the sale of firewood would be reinvested to support our Youth Crew Program.
Business Development	Sunderland Tree Service	Sunderland Business Development Grant	San Mateo Santa Clara Santa Cruz	\$ 184,427	Awarded grant money will be used to purchase new masticating equipment; (1) Kubota KX080-5R3A Excavator with forestry attachments and (2) Kubota SVL110-3HFDCC compact track loader (skid steer) with forestry attachments (see the Grant Budget for full equipment details). The purchase of this equipment will expand the scale and pace of vegetation treatments in the region, increase competition in the regional forestry sector, and support/create employment opportunity within California's forest sector industry.

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Workforce Development	California Society of American Foresters	Forestry Institute for Teachers: Youth Career Pathway Initiative	Statewide	\$ 499,520	This proposal seeks to increase youth entry into the natural resource workforce by expanding the Society of American Foresters' sponsored Forestry Institute for Teachers program. Building on 33 years of experience and partnerships, this proposal activates student interest in forestry careers by increasing adoption of forestry curriculum in K-12 classrooms. Ongoing workforce decline remains a significant obstacle to achieving sustainable forest management, forest restoration and wildfire resilience at scale. Furthermore, the divide between urban and forest communities continues to hinder broad public understanding of forestry issues and limits pathways for achieving measurable change. This proposal addresses the workforce gap at its source by equipping California educators with the experience, knowledge, tools, and instructional resources to prepare students for future forestry careers. The proposal will credential 120 teachers annually, each with an average downstream impact of 60 students, through week-long in-field trainings and the nationally recognized Project Learning Tree Green Jobs curriculum.
Workforce Development	Feather River Community College District	Higher Education Fire Training (HEFT) Program	Butte El Dorado Lassen Plumas Sierra	\$ 906,620	Through a well-established partnership, Feather River College (FRC) and Chico State Enterprises (CSE), through the CSU Chico Ecological Reserves, will build on the proven success of the Higher Education Prescribed Fire Training (HEFT) program. FRC and CSE will continue training college students and recent graduates in Plumas and Butte Counties, while mentoring Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC) in developing a prescribed fire training program. Built on strong partnerships, expertise, and a model of paying trainees for training hours, HEFT will provide field-based training and National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) courses to at least 100 participants. The program will deliver more than 400 certifications, 15,000 training hours, 1,000 participant days on prescribed fire projects, and will participate in burning on 1000 acres. Additionally, this program will go beyond traditional fire education to emphasize cultural fire training through direct work with local tribes and by hosting trainings led by indigenous fire practitioners.
Workforce Development	Headwaters Environmental Inc.	Forest Business Alliance Phase 2	Statewide	\$ 466,083	The Forest Business Alliance (FBA) Phase 2 is a workforce development initiative designed to expand and deepen capacity across California's forest sector. Building on more than three years of success, this project delivers professional training and skills development to grant applicants and grantees through three integrated pillars: high-impact technical assistance, topic-focused workshops, and restructured peer-learning cohorts. FBA Phase 2 focuses strategic support on forest sector businesses, nonprofits, and Tribal entities to lower barriers to entry and accelerate workforce readiness by improving access to grant funding and its successful implementation. Tribal-specific programming will be co-designed with Tribal partners, and includes support for training completions. By supporting practitioners, strengthening organizations, and fostering collaboration, the project targets the creation or upgrade of 100 forest sector positions and completion of 600 worker trainings. Ultimately, FBA Phase 2 advances California's aggressive climate goals by scaling up forest management, wildfire resilience, and wood and biomass utilization.

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Workforce Development	Healthy Forest Alliance Foundation	Good Fire Training Network: Scaling California's Private Lands Prescribed Fire Workforce	Alameda Amador Calaveras El Dorado Merced Nevada Placer Plumas Statewide	\$ 2,023,033	Scaling California's Private Lands Prescribed Fire Workforce, administered by Healthy Forest Alliance Foundation (HFA), is a four-year NWCG-certified prescribed fire and fuels workforce development initiative across California, anchored in Grizzly Flats, El Dorado County and other partner properties. Through three tracks (Chainsaw Skills, Fire Operations, and Prescribed Fire Leadership), the program trains 650 workers and issues 2,400+ certificates, including 72 California Certified Prescribed-Fire Burn Boss (CARX) certifications. Designed as a low-barrier entry point for people interested in hands-on forestry and wildfire resilience work, the program creates career pathways that do not require a college degree or agency employment. HFA has trained over 370 students statewide, serving low-income and disadvantaged community participants. With only 67 CARX practitioners statewide, HFA's non-agency pathway closes a critical workforce gap, reduces catastrophic wildfire emissions, and advances California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and Strategic Plan for Expanding the Use of Beneficial Fire.
Workforce Development	Mattole Restoration Council	Mattole Forest Resilience Training Project Phase Two	Humboldt Mendocino	\$ 678,974	The Mattole Restoration Council will coordinate a four-year forest and fire workforce training program in partnership with UC Agriculture and Natural Resources and Brice Land Volunteer Fire Department. Building on completed CAL FIRE BWD Grant, phase 2 will be a mix of classroom and field training for local fire practitioners from CalPoly Humboldt, Southern Humboldt Fire & Rescue Joint Powers Alliance (SHFR JPA), and the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria (BRB). Mattole Forest Resilience Training Project Phase 2 will create a pipeline for new fire practitioners to begin their careers and move mid-career professionals into advanced positions. The project will deliver approximately 600 certificates via 42 training sessions across 15 course types, host two 5-day Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (Trex) events and produce two CARX Burn Boss cohorts via NWCG and CICC accredited classes. All training is NWCG and SFM-certified. First cohort launches Fall 2026.
Workforce Development	Nevada Joint Union High School District	Sierra Foothills Agriculture Workforce Development and Mill	Nevada	\$ 817,242	Nevada County's lumber and forestry products processing industry has declined sharply over the past two decades, mirroring statewide trends as California's annual timber harvest fell from approximately 6 billion board feet in the 1980s to roughly 1.5 billion today. The Nevada Joint Union High School District operates a Wood-Mizer LT40 sawmill on its 86-acre ranch that produces lumber for the district. This grant expands the operation to a full Wood-Mizer WM4500/EG400 industrial production line with kiln and four-sided moulder, adds student-fabricated flame-cap biochar kilns processing ladder fuels and mill residuals, and formalizes a Natural Resources and Forestry career pathway training up to 200 students annually plus up to five paid interns. The project directly addresses documented workforce shortages confirmed by Sierra Pacific Industries, Robinson Emergency Services Inc., and CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit while supporting healthy forest management.

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Workforce Development	Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians	Building California Tribal Capacity for Resource and Cultural Advising on Wildfire Incidents	Santa Barbara	\$ 278,820	In recent years, the value of indigenous approaches to wildfire management has become increasingly prominent. However, indigenous participation in wildfire incidents continues to lag behind that of state and Federal agencies. This is particularly true in the area of resource and cultural advising on incidents. The purpose of the resource advisor on incidents is to provide knowledge and expertise to help protect natural and cultural values within the wildfire incident environment. Because traditional knowledge and expertise is so important, we seek to further this involvement with our proposal. Since 2024, the Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians (Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, "Tribe") in Southern California has begun to address this need with resource advisor trainings. These trainings have been held for Tribes throughout the state. This funding will enable the Tribe to hold 6 trainings and train 180 people total.
Workforce Development	The Mid Klamath Watershed Council	Scaling up Beneficial Fire Workforce in the Klamath Mountains	Humboldt Siskiyou	\$ 499,970	This project will build collaborative education, training, and career opportunities to serve local Tribal, NGO, State, and Federal partners. The Thimyrish Fire Academy will be offered to 15 local high school students and recent graduates, providing them with basic certifications and knowledge to pursue careers in forest management. In addition, 8 youth internship positions will be created to support the exploration of fire and forestry careers and open pathways for youth to readily enter the workforce with increased training and skills. We will also engage 30 early career workers in beneficial fire education and on the ground experience. This project will provide 32 advancement training opportunities in beneficial fire to MKWC and partners- staff by hosting and sending these persons to local/regional courses and events. We will also hold a CPR/First Aid class for 20 employees as this is crucial for the safety of our field staff.
Workforce Development	University Enterprises Corporation at CSUSB	Forest, Fire & Watershed Workforce Certificate Program: Scaling Solutions, Building Futures: A Diverse Workforce Initiative for Forest, Fire & Watershed Resilience	Inyo Kern Mono Riverside San Bernadino	\$ 1,274,858	The Forest, Fire & Watershed Workforce Certificate Program, led by the CSUSB Institute for Watershed Resiliency in partnership with Cerro Coso Community College, CSUN Center for Geospatial Science and Technology, Tribal partners, and regional employers, addresses California's forest/sector workforce shortage and increasing wildfire and watershed challenges in the Inland Empire and Eastern Sierra. The program delivers stackable credentials, preparing participants for careers in forest health, fuels reduction, watershed restoration, geospatial analysis, environmental monitoring, and project management. Through the FLOWS Field School model, participants engage in immersive, place-based training across mountain, desert, and watershed landscapes while supporting restoration and monitoring activities for agencies and nonprofits. Over four years, the program will train ~200 participants and achieve at least 70% job placement or advancement outcomes, prioritizing first-generation, low-income, Tribal, rural, veteran, and underrepresented populations while strengthening wildfire resilience, watershed health, and climate adaptation capacity statewide through collaborative, workforce-driven, and climate-focused regional partnerships.
		Total Award Offers		\$ 10,000,000	