

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**\$4.2 Million In Stimulus Funds Will Help Unemployed Workers
with Disabilities Clear Hurdles on the Road Back to Work**

SACRAMENTO -- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, renewing a longtime commitment to providing a level playing field for all workers, is directing \$4.2 million in federal stimulus funds to help some of the Californians who have been hit hardest by the soaring unemployment during the recession: people with disabilities.

"The road back to employment is long and difficult for everyone, but people with disabilities face additional hurdles on that road," Pam Harris, chief deputy director of the Employment Development Department (EDD) said. "This new funding for the Disability Program Navigator (DPN) project will provide the assistance they need to overcome those obstacles and land the jobs they deserve. It will reinforce access and independence and open the way for them to become competitive members of the California workforce."

"We are working around the clock to bring stimulus funding into the California economy quickly and responsibly," said senior advisor to the Governor and director of the California Recovery Task Force Richard Rice. "These funds will further assist people with disabilities and hone in on several of the hardest hit economic areas of the state."

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding will provide the DPN project with additional staff, assistive technology and adaptive equipment at local One-Stop Career Centers.

Almost \$4 million will be used to open new services in eight local areas and increase navigator staff at 16 local areas to cover larger geographical regions, such as the Central Valley. Additional Disability Program Navigators will target areas with exceptionally high unemployment rates where people with disabilities have been underserved. The funding also provides \$300,000 for new and upgraded assistive technology and adaptive equipment in local areas with DPN staff to facilitate the accessibility to programs for One-Stop Career Center customers with disabilities.

(more)

EDD has participated in the federal DPN project since its inception in July 2003. A significant element of the DPN’s role is to establish interagency collaboration and linkage to external programs and services adding notable value to One-Stop Career Centers serving persons with disabilities.

Affected Local Areas are:

New DPN Staff	Increased DPN Staff	Assistive Technology/ Adaptive Equipment
Golden Sierra Kern, Inyo and Mono Madera Merced San Jose/Silicon Valley San Luis Obispo Ventura WIB Verdugo	City of LA Del Norte (NORTEC) Humboldt Long Beach Monterey NBEC - Solano NCCC - Sutter NOVA Orange County Riverside Sacramento (SETA) San Bernardino County San Diego San Francisco SELACO South Bay	City of LA Del Norte (NORTEC) Humboldt Kern, Inyo, Mono Long Beach Madera County NBEC - Solano NCCC - Sutter NOVA Orange County Riverside Sacramento (SETA) San Bernardino County San Diego San Francisco San Jose/Silicon Valley San Luis Obispo South Bay Verdugo

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