

ON SITE

California Community Foundation Donates \$1M to PVJOBS

The California Community Foundation has announced that it has approved a \$1 million grant for PVJOBS. The grant will enable PVJOBS to serve 100 additional young adults through its construction job training and placement program.



"Our dedicated staff and board were elated to hear the news that the California Community Foundation is awarding this generous grant to our job program," said PVJOBS

Executive Director Mary Taylor. "Through these new resources, we'll be able to expand our services to help those who rely on job programs like ours to create a new life for themselves."

The grant will specifically fund the PVJOBS Hatch Young Adults 2.0 Program, which addresses employment barriers to at-risk youth by providing them with career-track job training and placement opportunities. The grant was made possible from an anonymous donor at the California Community Foundation.

"The California Community Foundation, through the support of an anonymous donor, is thrilled to be able to support PVJOBS' expansion of its Hatch Youth Adults 2.0 Program to serve 100

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PVJOBS to Run Santa Monica/Vermont Hiring Program

PVJOBS has been appointed to oversee the hiring program for the Santa Monica/Vermont Project, a 100% affordable housing apartment building located in



A rendering of the Santa Monica/Vermont development project.

Little Tokyo. Situated near Vermont/Santa Monica Metro station, the 187-unit apartment building will include space for on-site supportive services.

As the jobs coordinator, PVJOBS will ensure that the contractors meet the hiring goals set for the development project. The hiring requirements are that 30% of the project's workers are local residents, 50% are local hire apprentices, and 10% are transitional or "at-risk" individuals.

The developer for the Santa Monica/Vermont Project is Little Tokyo Service Center, a nonprofit social service organization and affordable housing developer. The project will commence construction in March 2022.

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additional young adults. We are answering PVJOBS' call to serve more young people who are seeking its transformational services and using philanthropic dollars to amplify public investment," said Sarah Yun, Program Officer of Housing & Economic Development for the California Community Foundation. "To a young person asking, 'Do I have to be an ex-offender to get help from PVJOBS?', we can give a resolute 'No' and open the doors to a brighter future. We're grateful for the opportunity to partner with PVJOBS and look forward to supporting the progress of their invaluable work."

PVJOBS Oversees Hiring Program for U.S. Vets Building

Since July 2020, PVJOBS has served as the jobs coordinator for a U.S. Vets development project that will house veterans who are homeless. The residential building is part of a 500-unit property that is being constructed on a 400-acre VA campus in Westwood to shelter homeless veterans. "It's rewarding to work on this project, knowing



Building 207 under construction at the U.S. Vets development project in Westwood.

that homeless vets will be living here," said Samuel Cabrera, PVJOBS Jobs Coordinator Manager. "It's a relief for these veterans."

PVJOBS was hired by the developers to oversee the hiring program for Building 207 that provides permanent supportive housing for homeless and chronically homeless veterans. The development project's hiring program requires that 20% of the construction's workforce are local residents and 10% are transitional or "at-risk" individuals. PVJOBS has exceeded the hiring goals for the project, which is set to be completed in late 2022.

Working on the project provides benefits beyond earning a paycheck. Construction workers are gaining industry experience while being compensated with competitive wages. "The workers we've placed on this project are receiving journeymen wages based on the PLA. So the workers are happy to come on board for this project," said Cabrera.

Elliott/Drinkward Partners with PVJOBS to Staff Projects

As a new partner of PVJOBS, Elliott/Drinkward Construction has hired 15 PVJOBS participants since last summer. Yet, Elliott/Drinkward's hiring efforts are not solely altruistic. The construction firm also recognizes the skill levels of the PVJOBS participants, enabling the company to staff solid construction crews.



A rendering of the Vermont Corridor Apartments, a development project where PVJOBS participants have worked under Elliott/Drinkward.

"Our foremen starts our workers in different areas to see where their strong points are before assigning them to those areas," said Rosy Alécio, Human Resources Assistant for Elliott/Drinkward. "We're willing to recognize our workers for their hard work and loyalty. So we're willing to pay increases for those workers," adding that PVJOBS workers are paid union apprentice wages.

In addition to their training preparation, Elliott/Drinkward also values how PVJOBS guides their workers in various stages of their construction assignments. "We appreciate PVJOBS for referring and mentoring them throughout the process," said Alécio. "Like PVJOBS, our company wants to give people opportunities to change their lives."

PVJOBS Worker Profile: Victor Henriquez

PVJOBS participant Victor Henriquez embodies an ideal attitude as a construction crew member. "Whatever they ask me to do, I do it because I want to learn," said Henriquez, an entry-level carpenter apprentice for Elliott/Drinkward Construction. "That way, I learn the trade more so the journeymen will want to work with me."

What drives Henriquez's passion for his job is his fascination with his craft. "My job is interesting. It's like playing Legos for adults," he said. "I even go home to refresh my memory of what I learned for the day by going on YouTube."



PVJOBS participant Victor Henriquez shown working at an assigned construction project.

While Henriquez dreamt for years about pursuing a construction career, he has only worked in the industry for less than a year. He is a recent graduate of a construction pre-apprenticeship training course offered by PVJOBS, where he studied fundamental carpentry skills. Formerly incarcerated, Henriquez learned about PVJOBS through a re-entry program. He viewed the job program as an opportunity to reclaim his life by establishing a construction career that would support himself and his 15-year-old son.

Presently, Henriquez is working at a low-income housing development project in Boyle Heights. With hopes of becoming a journeyman in the near future, Henriquez is especially pleased with his current apprenticeship job because he's working at a project that is purposeful. "It feels good to know I'm working for the community," he said.

SoFi Stadium Worker: Kathy Brown

Construction laborer Kathy Brown can't imagine working in any other field. Being a part of a construction crew for the SoFi Stadium development project was just an added bonus of working in the industry. "I was elated to work at SoFi Stadium," said Brown, a Los Angeles native. "I like to see the buildings I put my sweat into. To see the stadium now... Wow!"



Kathy Brown

Brown has worked as a laborer for more than a decade, although she began her construction career later in life. Fifteen years ago, Brown worked as a pediatric nurse assistant for a local hospital. But after enduring three consecutive deaths in her family, she felt she could no longer continue working as a nurse. "I needed a change in my life," she said.

Unemployed as a single mother of three, Brown didn't have the luxury of taking a long break from the workforce. Remembering the joy she once experienced as a teen while working on a construction project for the Conservation Corps, she realized that construction would be her next career move. When a friend told her about PVJOBS, she quickly visited the job program. "As soon as I walked through the doors, PVJOBS made sure I had all the things that I needed," said Brown. "I got clothing. I got boots. And they paid my union dues." She worked 12-hour shifts at one of her first assignments, and was assigned to numerous construction projects over the next decade.

Eventually becoming a journeyman, Brown was recruited by Kiewit to join its construction crew at the SoFi Stadium development project. Working as the only woman on her crew didn't intimidate Brown. In fact, quite the opposite. "I don't let any man out-work me," she said. "I'm a hard worker. I love doing construction work."

PVJOBS Celebrates First 2022 Graduation Cohort

To celebrate at-risk individuals for completing their pre-apprenticeship training programs, PVJOBS hosted a special graduation ceremony for 18 job program participants at the nonprofit's South Los Angeles headquarters in January. The ceremony was attended by family and friends who joined PVJOBS staff in congratulating the graduates on their quest to starting their new careers.



Pre-apprenticeship training participants gather in front of PVJOBS following their graduation ceremony.

Each of the graduates completed one of two pre-apprenticeship training programs offered by PVJOBS: Construction 101, a construction skills training course, and Hospitality 101, a retail industry fundamentals course. Both pre-apprenticeship training programs prepare participants for successfully establishing careers in these in-demand industries.

The event graduated the first cohort from the PVJOBS YouthBuild Program, which provides low-income youth with educational assistance and work skills training to prepare them for wage paying jobs. Three other programs that the graduates represented were Hatch Young Adults that offers job training to young adults formerly involved with the juvenile or adult justice system; PVJOBS CORE that provides intervention services to individuals with a history of involvement in the justice system; and LIGHT 2.0 that extends supportive services to those from underserved communities.