
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Bay-Area Bio-Tech Consortium Career Pathway Project



Grant amount: \$2,000,000 – 2 years

Grantee: Alameda County Workforce Investment Board

Key partners: Alameda and San Mateo County Workforce Boards; Genentech; Alza; Baxter; Chiron; Abgenix; Skyline Community College; Ohlone Community College; Opportunities Industrialization Center West (CBO); Adecco; and Gruber and Pereira Associates;

Location of grant activities: Bay Area, Calif.

Challenge

With an estimated 85,000 biotech-related manufacturing jobs and the introduction of new products, Bay Area demand for entry-level and skilled workers will grow at an estimated 1,500 new positions over the next 18 months.

Addressing the Challenge

In response to growing employer demand for bio-tech manufacturing workers, the Alameda and San Mateo Workforce Investment Boards propose to develop career pathways in bio-tech manufacturing, facilities management, quality control, and product engineering. The objective of this proposal is to further expand and refine a successful pilot conducted by San Mateo County to train entry-level biotech manufacturing workers. Targeted populations for this initiative include dislocated workers from an airline, aerospace and IT industries, and economically disadvantaged individuals. Additionally, the program will work with area community-based organizations (CBOs) to create a “bridge” program to prepare lower skilled individuals for entry-level employment by offering English, math and communication skills training, as well as career orientation and social support.

Projected Outcomes

- Train up to 150 individuals for entry-level, pathway positions as bio-tech manufacturing technicians at wages of \$35,000 - \$40,000 per year
- Retrain 40 dislocated engineers from the airline, aerospace, and IT sectors for career pathway positions in facilities management, quality control, and product engineering at wages of \$50,000 - \$80,000 per year

