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# Community-Based Job Training Grants

*County of Merced/Merced County Department of Workforce Investment*

**Grantee:** County of Merced/Merced County Department of Workforce Investment

**Industry Focus:** Healthcare, Nursing

**Key Partners:** Merced County Department of Workforce Investment, the Stanislaus Economic Development and Workforce Alliance Board (Alliance Worknet), Madera County Department of Education Workforce Development Office, Modesto Junior College, Merced Community College (a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities), the State Center Community College District Madera Center, Yosemite Regional Occupations Program, Merced Regional Occupations Program, Fresno Regional Occupations Programs for Madera County, Hospital Council of Northern and Central California, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, and the California Association of Health Facilities -- Progress Valley Chapter

**Grant Amount:** \$1,850,443

**Leveraged Amount:** \$1,447,056

**Location of Grant Activities:** Merced, Madera, and Stanislaus Counties

**Challenge:** The California Employment Development Department projected a demand for an additional 25,400 licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) in all sectors between 2000 and 2010 – an increase of nearly 50 percent, yet the number of active licensed vocational nurses in the State has remained relatively stable, ranging between 64,900 and 66,000 since 1966.

**Addressing the Challenge:** This project will begin to address the San Joaquin Valley region's nursing shortage by expanding the capacity of the three (3) partner colleges to train Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs). The Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and their partners will assist with the selection of program applicants as well as provide scholarships to students to help defray the costs associated with a nursing program. The WIBs and the community colleges will actively seek co-sponsorship of applicants from the business partners to increase the leveraged fund pool.

**Projected Outcomes:**

- 170 Licensed Vocational Nurses will be prepared for employment in the tri-county region
- An up-to-date Licensed Vocational Nursing program, resulting in a vocational certificate at the community colleges, will be completed
- Community colleges will increase their instructor population by approximately 30 percent

