



23 million small businesses employ more than 50 percent of the private workforce in the US.

A Jan 2011 updated report indicated that in March 2009 there were 352,647 full time and 48,525 part time employees working in government jobs in California.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the 20 occupations expected to produce the most jobs don't require a higher education and do not pay high wages.

Retail salespersons and cashiers were the occupations with the highest employment in 2010, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Further, three of the largest occupations were office and administrative support jobs, helping to make office and administrative support the largest occupational group overall.

WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT

PROGRAM: A federal hiring incentive, providing employers with a tax credit for hiring individuals from any one of the following targeted groups:

Qualified Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients

Qualified Veterans

Qualified Ex-Felons

Designated Community Resident (ages 18-39) living in an Empowerment Zone, Renewal Community, or Rural Renewal Community

High Risk Youth

Long-term family assistance recipients

Vocational Rehabilitation Referrals

Persons placed in subsidized employment receive wages and benefits as do similarly hired non-subsidized employees.

Employers participating in subsidized employment programs receive financial assistance to help offset the cost of the salaries, benefits, training and supervision.

Persons placed in subsidized employment settings generally are more likely to secure unsubsidized employment than others who may be placed in settings where they receive community service or just work experience.



SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS THE COMMUNITY



What is subsidized employment?

Participants are placed in an employment setting allowing them an opportunity to obtain job related skills as well as earn a salary. Some of the valuable skills employees may learn include soft skills such as the ability to communicate with the employer and fellow employees and learning to be organized and follow through with tasks. Employers receive financial incentives and may in fact find opportunities to permanently hire some of the participants.



What responsibilities do subsidized employers have? How much are people from the community going to benefit from the jobs or the job training?

- The community as a whole can benefit from having more of its citizens earning a salary and then spending their money in the community
- Subsidized employment also can benefit the employers as they can use the participants to perform work that would not ordinarily be done and may serve as an entry into a regular full time job with the same employer.
- Subsidized employment allows participants the ability to qualify for earned income tax credits based on these wages .

Calaveras County, Fresno County, Kern County, Madera County, Mariposa County, Merced County, San Joaquin County, San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, Stanislaus County, and Tulare County

On February 17, 2009 the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was enacted by Congress and passed into law. ARRA established the Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF) to provide federal funding for specific benefits including subsidized employment.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) reports that subsidized employment was provided to over 47,000 Cal WORKS and other low-income families through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) ECF that ended on September 30, 2010. There were 260,000 persons placed in jobs subsidized by ECF in the US per the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Calaveras County

Numbers of persons placed into subsidized slots: 1
 Number of employers who accepted placements: 1
 Number of persons retained by those employers into regular employment slots: 1

Kings County:

Numbers of persons placed into subsidized slots: 116
 Number of employers who accepted placements: 71
 Number of persons retained by those employers into regular employment slots: 35

San Joaquin County

Numbers of persons placed into subsidized slots: 287
 Number of employers who accepted placements: 45
 Number of persons retained by those employers into regular employment slots: 100
 Types of jobs: General warehouse, pressure washer, forklift operator, general labor, and clerical were the most prevalent jobs.

Madera County

Numbers of persons placed into subsidized slots: 23
 Number of employers who accepted placements: 7
 Number of persons retained by those employers into regular employment slots: 2

Mariposa County:

Numbers of persons placed into subsidized slots : 44
 Number of employers who accepted placements : 12
 Number of persons retained by those employers into regular employment slots : 8
 Businesses involved included real estate , automotive parts , hardware, and a local hospital.

Santa Barbara County:

Number of persons placed into subsidized slots: 373
 Number of persons retained by employers into regular employment slots : 38
 Number of employers who accepted placements: 25
 Businesses involved included various county departments, vocational training center, health clinic, city parks department, and day care centers

San Luis Obispo County:

Number of participants placed into subsidized slots : 107
 Number of employers who accepted placements: 65
 Number of persons retained by those employers into regular unsubsidized employment slots: 59



Kern County:

Number of persons placed into subsidized slots: 121
 Number of employers who accepted placements: 34
 Number of persons retained by those employers into regular employment slots.: 27
 Types of jobs: warehouse, cashier, clerical, IT technician, leasing agents, machine operators, and maintenance

Merced County:

Number of persons placed into subsidized slots: 164
 Number of employers who accepted placements: 74
 Businesses involved: government, retail, food service, and education.

Fresno County:

Number of persons placed into subsidized slots: 2,518
 Number of employers who accepted placements: 527
 Number of persons retained by those employers into regular employment slots: 813
 Types of jobs: agriculture, administration, manufacturing, Construction, and retail

Stanislaus County:

Number of persons placed into subsidized slots: 761
 Number of employers who accepted placements: 162
 Types of jobs: Clerical, warehouse, food service, retail, Park aides, and automotive

Tulare County:

Number of persons placed into subsidized slots: 877
 Number of employers who accepted placements: 324
 Numbers of persons retained by those employers into regular employment slots: 166

EMPLOYERS STORIES

Jere White, owner of White Forest Nursery in Bakersfield, CA states that he would definitely participate in subsidized employment programs in the future. He explains that by participating in the subsidized employment program, it allowed him to hire more employees so that he could take on additional projects. Further, Kern County staff did an excellent job of prescreening applicants and he found that most were well qualified for the job. He said normally screening is a very time consuming process and he particularly appreciated the County assuming this burden. He explained that all the subsidized employees began as laborers but those retained have ended up also in sales, design, and overall nursery jobs.

Janice Oldemeyer of Onsite Electronics Recycling in Stockton, CA. reports that their business normally employees fifteen full time employees and 8-10 temporary workers. The company had from 6-7 different persons placed into subsidized slots at any given time and did hire 3 of those persons into full time unsubsidized positions. Janice said that these employees were hired to break electronics down into their components. She stated that in this economy the company has no trouble recruiting new employees; however, this program allowed for people to be put on the job right away before the company had to pick up the cost. Using this program allowed them to help the community.

Frank Rodriguez, Supervisor and Purchasing Agent for Premier Trailer Manufacturing INC of Visalia, CA states that his company is a seasonal company. The company employees 5 year round employees but from March – October of each year it employs up to 48-50 staff. He accepted several subsidized employees and one actually was retained and has returned again this year. Further, he could have accepted even more employees but the County was not able to refer the numbers he could have hired. He explained that it is difficult to find qualified people and he appreciated the fact that the County helped screen potential employees.

