

**N E W S R E L E A S E**

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**State Soliciting Job Training Proposals Targeting  
Laid-Off Construction Workers**

**SACRAMENTO** – The Labor and Workforce Development’s Employment Development Department (EDD) is soliciting proposals for employment and training programs to assist workers laid off from the residential construction industry.

The EDD today released the Construction Talent Transfer Solicitation for Proposal (SFP) with a particular focus on providing “bridge” training to those affected by the mortgage industry slump. Up to \$4.5 million in Workforce Investment Act funds will be awarded to selected organizations to train such workers for commercial construction jobs.

This SFP will place emphasis on expanding workers’ skills for employment in public works projects financed by the \$42 billion in infrastructure bonds approved by voters last year. The initiative will fund employment and training programs designed to transition laid-off workers into jobs requiring similar skills in public works construction and commercial construction.

“There is a strong need to help displaced workers transition to new jobs. Through retraining programs, we can keep people working and continue to rebuild California’s economy,” said Labor Secretary Victoria Bradshaw. “These programs will quickly get workers retrained, employed and back on the road to financial well being.”

Proposals must be received by EDD no later than 3 p.m. on April 21, 2008. Further information regarding this SFP, the eligibility requirements, and criteria for selection can be found on EDD’s Web site at [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov) , and click on “Construction Worker Training” on the front page news item.

“The housing slump has put many skilled Californians out of work - such as carpenters, Operating Engineers, ironworkers, and cement workers,” said EDD Director Patrick Henning. “But we can continue to use their talents to rebuild our schools, fix our levees and build more freeways. By investing in our infrastructure, we’re creating jobs and ensuring California remains competitive in a global economy.”

For additional information on Governor Schwarzenegger’s efforts in investing in California’s infrastructure and economy, please visit the Governor’s Web site at <http://gov.ca.gov/issues/strategic-growth>.

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