MEMBERS:
Isiah Gomer
Chair
Paso Robles Waste & Recycle
William Hills
Vice-Chair
United Staffing Associates, LLC
David Baldwin
Pipe Trades Local 403
Josh Cross
Atascadero Chamber of Commerce
Erica Gomez
Compass Health, Inc.
Ian Journey
Journey Engineering, Inc.
Cheryl London
Templeton Adult Education
Danielle McIntire
The Cliffs Hotel & Spa
Justin McIntire
Department of Rehabilitation
Veronica Orozco
Employment Development Department
Dr. Aubrey Priest
Cuesta College
Julie Sinton Pruniski
REACH
Angela Rayfield
Rantec Power Systems
Mark Simonin
Local IBEW 639
Ryan Stanley
Operating Engineers Local 12
Verena Latona-Tahlman
Cannon Corporation
Angela Toomey
Morris & Garritano Insurance

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING AGENDA

VISION: The Workforce needs of employers and job seekers in San Luis Obispo County are met

Date: November 05, 2026
Time: 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Location: Cannon; 1050 Southwood Dr, San Luis Obispo CA

1. Call to Order and Introductions *Isiah Gomer*

2. Public Comment

3. Presentation:

3.1 Adult Education Consortium Update *Cheryl London*

4. Consent Items: *Isiah Gomer*

4.1 Review and Approve the August 27, 2026 Minutes

4.2 Review and Approve 2027 WDB Meeting Calendar

5. Discussion Items:

5.1 Receive FY 26-27 Q1 Contract Performance Reports *Dawn Boulanger*

6. Administrative Entity Update:

6.1 Receive Director Update *Dawn Boulanger*

6.2 Receive and Review Fiscal Update *Dawn Boulanger*

7. Reports:

a.) Executive Committee and Chairperson Report *Isiah Gomer*

b.) Board Member Workforce Development Updates *All*

8. Next Meeting: February 04, 2027

Location: TBD

9. Adjournment *Isiah Gomer*

This Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I–funded program or activity is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For TTY dial 711. This project is funded 100% with federal WIOA funds awarded to the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo County by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration in the amount of $618,215 for WIOA Adults, $515,549 for WIOA Dislocated Workers, $911,495 for WIOA Youth, $155,662 for WIOA Rapid Response, and $58,838 for WIOA Layoff Aversion.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
of San Luis Obispo County

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Location: Morris & Garritano Insurance: 1122 Laurel Lane, San Luis Obispo, CA

Present: Isiah Gomer, William Hills, Ian Journey, Cheryl London, Danielle McIntire, Justin McIntire, Veronica Orozco, Julie Sinton Pruniski, Angela Rayfield, Mark Simonin, Ryan Stanley, Verena Latona-Tahlman, Angela Toomey,

Absent: David Baldwin, Josh Cross, Dr. Aubrey Priest

Guests: Shahrad Teimouri, Valerie Macias, Alexis VanPelt, Addison Gregory, Erica Stuckey, Quinn Brady, Shelby Mason

Staff: Dawn Boulanger, Diana Marin, Eddie Hernandez

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1. Call to Order and Introductions:

Vice-Chair William Hills called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM **Quorum reached**

2. Public Comment:

Chair Gomer: No public comment

3. Presentations

3.1 Reach- SLO County Economic Development Update

3.2 Goodwill Central Coast – SLO County Programs

4. Consent Items:

4.1 Approve the May 07, 2026, Minutes

4.2 Review and Approve WDB Member Nomination

The Board approved consent items 4.1 and 4.2 in a single motion

Motion: Angela Rayfield
Second: Verena Latona-Tahlman
Motion Passed Unanimously

DRAFT

Public Comment: N/A

5. Action Items:

5.1 Review and Approve draft WIOA Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27

Dawn Boulanger (staff) presented this item to the WDB, which attachment is available and part of the agenda packet.

Motion: William Hills
Second: Veronica Orozco
Motion Passed Unanimously
Public Comment: N/A

5.2 Review and Approve an Increase to the Family Self-Sufficiency Threshold for WIOA Training Services.

Diana Marin (staff) presented this item to the WDB, which attachment is available and part of the agenda packet.

Motion: William Hills
Second: Verena Latona-Tahlman
Motion Passed Unanimously
Public Comment: N/A

6. Discussion Items:

6.1 Receive FY 25-26 Q4 Contract Performance Reports

Diana Marin (staff) presented this item to the WDB, which attachment is available and part of the agenda packet.

7. Administrative Entity Update:

7.1 Receive Director Update

Dawn Boulanger (staff) provided an update on the new location of the SLO Cal Careers Center at 285 South St. Suite K, inviting members to tour the new space which is open Monday – Friday 8am-5pm; thanked members attending the upcoming CWA conference, and reported there were no legislative updates/action affecting current WIOA funding

DRAFT

7.2 Receive and Review Fiscal Update

Dawn Boulanger (staff) provided WDB with an update on the Fiscal Budget, which is available and part of the agenda packet.

8. Reports:

a.) Executive Committee and Chairperson Report

Chairperson Isiah Gomer reported that the Executive Committee met June 10, 2026 and the following items were approved and discussed: Approved the June 11, 2025 minutes; Review and Approve the Executive Committee Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2026; Discuss WIOA &County Procurement Requirements and Process; Review WIOA Performance Metrics Reported to the WDB and Advise on Data Points and Format for Quarterly Reporting to WDB. Mr. Gomer informed the WDB that the July 8, 2026 meeting was cancelled and the next scheduled Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for September 09, 2026 at 8:30am, at Department of Social Services-3433 S Higuera St, San Luis Obispo, Ca.

b.) Board Member Workforce Development Updates

Chairperson Isiah Gomer reported that he is assisting with a committee supporting a proposed school bond measure in Paso Robles. Mr. Gomer provided an overview of the potential impact of the bond measure, including opportunities to strengthen and enhance Career Technical Education (CTE) programs within the Paso Robles community. Mr. Gomer also noted that the measure could provide additional support and resources to help expand CTE educational opportunities and better prepare students for future careers and local workforce needs. Board Member Mark Simonin reported on the successful outreach efforts at the 2026 Construction Trades Career fair held at the Mid-State Fair. Mr. Simonin shared that the event experienced strong attendance and significant foot traffic throughout the fair, providing an excellent opportunity to connect with individuals and families from communities across the region. Mr. Simonin also noted that outreach efforts were well received and that numerous Career Technical Education (CTE) programs were prominently represented, providing attendees with greater awareness of available educational and career pathways. Board Member Ian Journey reported that recruitment for the upcoming Leadership San Luis Obispo (SLO) cohort with the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce is currently open. Applications and recruitment efforts will remain open through September 14, 2026. Members and interested individuals were encouraged to learn more about the program and application process by visiting LeadershipSLO.org.

DRAFT

8. Next Meeting:
November 05, 2026
8:30 – 10:30 AM
Location: Cannon; 1050 Southwood Dr, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

9. Adjournment:
Chairperson Isiah Gomer: adjourned the meeting at 10:28 AM

I, Eddie Hernandez, Clerk of the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held on Thursday, August 27, 2026, by the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo County.

Eddie Hernandez, WDB Program Review Specialist

Dated: 09/02/2026

DRAFT

Workforce Development Board
CONSENT ITEM
November 5, 2026

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4.2

ITEM: Review and Approve 2027 WDB Meeting Calendar

ACTION REQUIRED:
It is requested that the Workforce Development Board (WDB) review and approve the proposed 2027 meeting dates/times below.

SUMMARY NARRATIVE:
The Workforce Development Board will continue to meet quarterly on the first Thursday of each month of February, May, August and November. The 2027 WDB meetings will continue to be 2-hours in duration and will be held 8:30am-10:30am. Meetings are required to be held in-person. Meeting locations may be changed with adequate notice. All meeting agendas will have the confirmed meeting location included when posted to meet Brown Act requirements.

The 2027 WDB meeting dates are outlined on the attached Item 4.2a.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACT:
No current fiscal impact

STAFF COMMENTS:
The proposed schedule is recommended to ensure quorum and regular occurrence of WDB meetings.

Workforce Development Board **2027**

Quarterly WDB Meeting Schedule

- The **Workforce Development Board (WDB)** of San Luis Obispo County meets *quarterly* on the first Thursday of the month at 8:30-10:30AM (2 hrs.).
- Meeting Months: February, May, August & November

2027 Schedule

February
February 4th – Workforce Development Board
Location: TBD
May
May 6th – Workforce Development Board
Location: TBD
August
August 5th – Workforce Development Board
Location: TBD
November
November 4th – Workforce Development Board
Location: TBD

ITEM 5.1 PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

PY 2026-27
1st Quarter
July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

To perform successfully, the contracted service provider must meet 100% of contractual requirements (e.g., enrollments, work-based learning, expenditures, etc.).

STATUS SUMMARY

PROGRAM/GRANT	PROVIDER	BUDGET	OUTCOMES	NOTES
Adult & Dislocated Worker	Career Team	Needs improvement	Needs improvement	25% into contract term
Youth	Eckerd Connects	Watch List	Meeting expectations	25% into contract term
Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships (RERP)	Eckerd Connects	Needs improvement	Needs improvement	93% into contract term
Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships (RERP)	Cuesta College Continuing Education	Meeting expectations	Meeting expectations	93% into contract term
Prison to Employment 2.0	Eckerd Connects	Watch List	Watch List	91% into contract term

Source: CalJOBS and Subrecipient Reports

Q1 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

PY 2026-27
1st Quarter
July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

Overall Performance:
Quarter 1 (July 1 – September 30, 2026) reflects steady activity across programs, with several contracts identified for improvement through corrective action plans.

WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker:

- Status: ***Needs Improvement*** for budget performance and outcomes.
- Key challenges: Lower-than-anticipated participant enrollments and expenditures, compounded by the transition and onboarding of a new service provider with limited local workforce system knowledge and familiarity with WIOA program requirements.
- Root causes: Onboarding of a new service provider with limited knowledge of the local workforce system and WIOA program requirements, staff knowledge gaps in WIOA eligibility and case management processes, and the delayed opening of the SLO Cal Careers Center at its new location have contributed to slower-than-anticipated program implementation and performance.
- Corrective actions: A Corrective Action Plan (CAP) is underway with the service provider to address identified deficiencies, strengthen staff knowledge and program implementation, and improve participant outcomes and expenditure performance.

WIOA Youth:

- Status: ***Watch List*** for budget performance and a ***Meeting Expectations*** rating for outcomes.
- Key challenges: Q1 expenditures are below anticipated 25% at completion of first quarter of the fiscal year. However, programming structure and service delivery typically see expenses increase in Q2 and notable in Q3 and Q4 as participants progress through services and are ready to participate in training and paid work experience which also often corresponds with increase in supportive services needs resulting in increased expenditures moving through the fiscal year.

Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships (RERP)- Eckerd:

- Status: ***Needs Improvement*** for budget performance and ***Needs Improvement*** for outcomes
- Key challenges: Expenditures and outcomes are both below YTD targets due to delay in onboarding staff which delayed program implementation and delayed enrollments.
- Root causes: ongoing staffing recruitment & retention challenges
- Corrective actions: redesigned staffing model to incorporate a business services staff position to support increased WEX worksite development opportunities. A budget modification is in progress to pursue purchase of equipment to support digital literacy training initiative and participants attending online training as well as increased staff development funding to conduct Human Centered Design training regionally with Santa Barbara County WDB for all regional workforce staff.

Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships (RERP)- Cuesta College Continuing Education:

- Status: ***Meeting Expectations*** for budget performance and ***Meeting Expectations*** for outcomes. A contract modification was recently completed to add $27,750 in additional funding to the original contract budget of $15,500 bringing the new contract total to $38,250. These funds support expansion and additional offerings of digital literacy training provided by Cuesta throughout the community in Spring and Fall semesters.

Prison to Employment (P2E):

- Status: ***Watch List*** rating for budget performance and outcomes.
- Key Challenges: Insufficient development of WEX worksites limited participant placement opportunities.
- Corrective Actions: Implementing a dedicated WEX Business Services Developer and enhanced performance monitoring to expand worksite development and improve budget execution.

Systemwide Focus:

- Staff continue to monitor all corrective actions through regular provider check-ins and analysis of contract performance data in state mandated systems, and as reported on contract performance reports submitted by service providers.
- Emphasis on staff development, staff recruitment and retention, as well as outreach strategies that support increasing enrollments, timely data entry, and measurable outcomes.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

PY 2026-27
1st Quarter
July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

To help bridge the gap between workforce program language and business terminology, we have included a brief glossary. This section defines the core federal metrics and acronyms, clarifying how they translate into tangible business and community value. Please refer to this guide as we discuss the status of our investments, including our WIOA programs and targeted grants such as Prison to Employment (P2E), Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships (RERP), and High Road Construction Careers (HRCC).

TERM	WDBSLO PROGRAM ASSOCIATED
WIOA	The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is the federal legislation that provides the core funding for services for adults, youth, and dislocated workers. It's the primary engine of our public workforce system.
WDBSLO	The Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo County is the local body that oversees, funds, and sets the strategy for all local workforce programs to align with regional economic needs.
SLO Cal Careers Center	The SLO Cal Careers Center is a proud partner of the America's Job Center of California network and is the physical and virtual hub where job seekers access career services and employers find talent.
Dislocated Worker	An individual who has been laid off due to a business closure, company downsizing, or other economic reasons and needs help re-entering the workforce.
Priority Populations	Groups facing significant barriers to employment that WIOA requires local systems to prioritize for services to promote equity.
Work-Based Learning (OJT & WEX)	Hands-on, practical experiences like apprenticeships, on-the-job training (OJT), or internships/work experience (WEX) that allow a participant to earn and learn simultaneously.
Certificate/Credential	An industry-recognized credential or occupational skills certificate that validates an individual's specific skills and competencies required by a particular industry or occupation.
Expenditure	Allowable charges or cost incurred by a service provider against federal or state grant funds. It represents funds spent out of WIOA Title I allocations and/or special state funded grants, to deliver authorized workforce development activities, participant training, supportive services, or program administration.
Leverage	For WIOA Title I Adult & Dislocated Worker programs: Credit of up to 10% toward the mandatory 30% participant training expenditure threshold by utilizing leveraged funds/resources from an external source. Allowable leveraged resources include Federal Pell Grants, state agency funds like the Employment Training Panel (ETP), employer matching contributions for on-the-job training, and CalWORKs/TANF dollars. These combined partner resources must directly fund training or supportive services for co-enrolled WIOA participants to qualify for the credit.

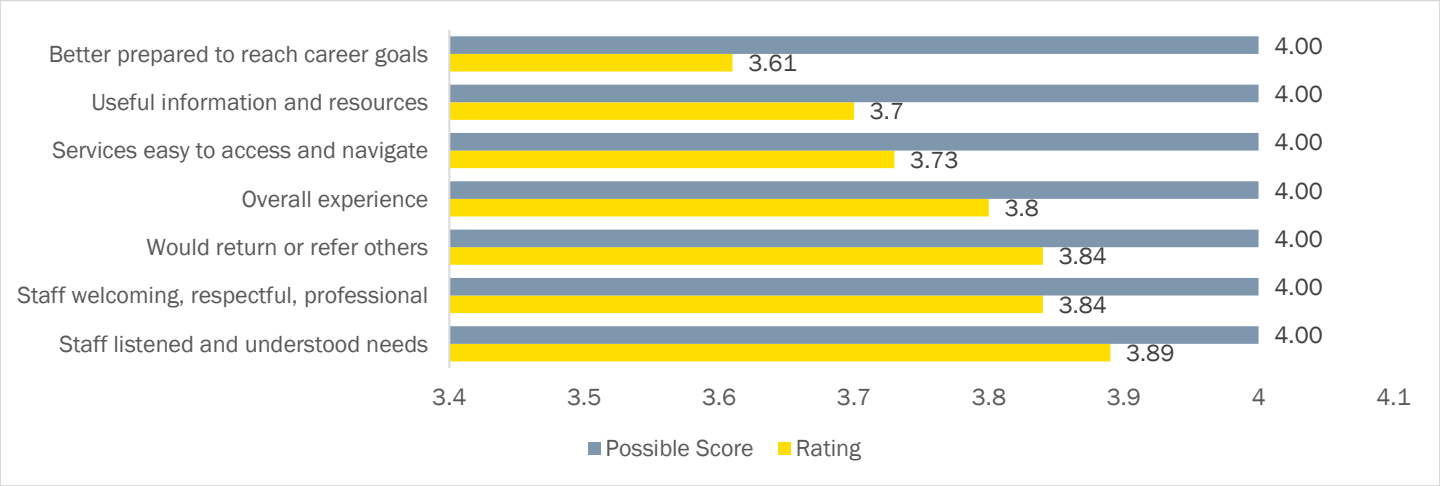
CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

PY 2026-27
1st Quarter
July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

WIOA Adult/DW Customer Surveys

Reporting period: July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

44	94%	97%
Survey respondents	Satisfied with services across all measures	Staff listened & understood



CUSTOMER FEEDBACK THEMES

Strengths

Positive comments about presentations, clear explanations, welcoming staff, and learning about WIOA services and resources.

Opportunities

Requests for more specific examples of jobs obtained, clearer explanation of how services work, and updated website address information.

Areas for Continuous Improvement	Recommended Actions
Strengthen next-step guidance	Conclude orientations with a concise service pathway and specific next steps toward career goals.
Make outcomes tangible	Include practical examples of training pathways, job placements, and available individualized support.
Improve access to accurate information	Verify website location and contact details; review customer-facing materials for clarity.

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

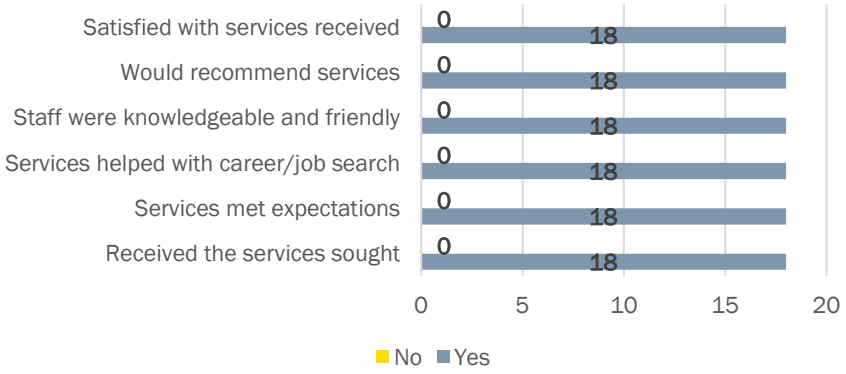
PY 2026-27
1st Quarter
July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

WIOA Youth Customer Surveys

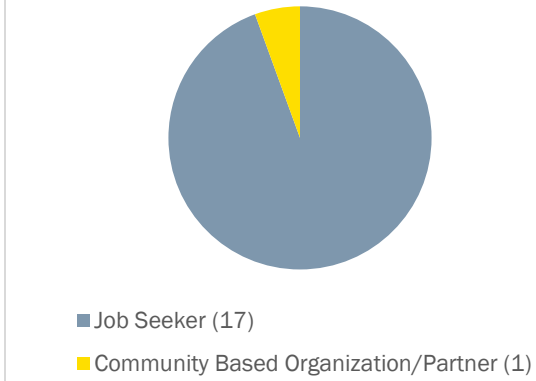
Reporting period: July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

18	100%	100%
Survey respondents	Satisfied with services	Would recommend

Service Experience | Positive Responses



Survey Respondent Type



CUSTOMER FEEDBACK THEMES

Strengths

Comments highlighted positive experiences, a welcoming environment, helpful staff, and effective presentations.

Opportunities

Two comments expressed interest in Adult Services; another requested information on training resources.

Areas for Continuous Improvement	Recommended Actions
Connect Customers with next step services	Confirm referral pathways for Adult services and education /training inquiries.
Sustain Customer Service Quality	Continue staff support and timely access to career services and resources.
Strengthen Feedback Collection	Increase survey participation and monitor satisfaction trends each quarter.

WIOA ADULT/DISLOCATED WORKER

PY 2026-27
1st Quarter
July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

The WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs serve individuals ages 18 and older and are designed to meet employer needs by helping job seekers upgrade skills, obtain employment, obtain credentials, improve job retention and increase earnings. The program helps individuals become reemployed through job search assistance and/or training. A state mandated participant training expenditure requirement of 30% of the funds allocated to the County is required for WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker funds.

PROVIDER SUMMARY

SERVICE PROVIDER	BUDGET	CONTRACT TERM
Career Team	$800,000	07/01/26 – 06/30/27

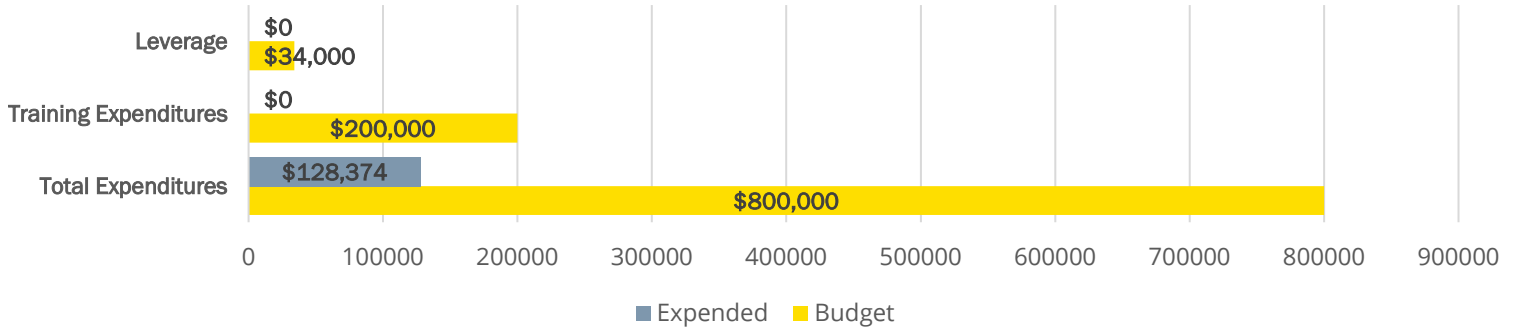
STATUS SUMMARY

BUDGET	OUTCOMES
Needs Improvement (16% expended)	Needs Improvement (25% into contract term)

OUTCOME OVERVIEW

OUTCOMES	ACTUAL	GOAL	ACHIEVED
New Enrollments	**5**	**220**	**2%**
Participants Carried In	70	-	-
Total Participants Served	75	-	-
Enrolled in Training	1	-	
Completion of Training and/or Attainment of Industry-Recognized Credentials	5	-	

BUDGET OVERVIEW



WIOA YOUTH

PY 2026-27
1st Quarter
July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

The WIOA Youth program helps young adults, ages 16 to 24, acquire the educational and occupational skills, training, and support needed to achieve academic and employment success and successfully transition into careers and productive adulthood. A core focus of the WIOA Youth program is paid Work Experience (WEX) services, with a federally mandated expenditure requirement of 20% of the WIOA Youth funds allocated to the County to be expended on WEX activities.

PROVIDER SUMMARY

SERVICE PROVIDER	BUDGET	CONTRACT TERM
Eckerd Connects	$700,000	07/01/26 – 06/30/27

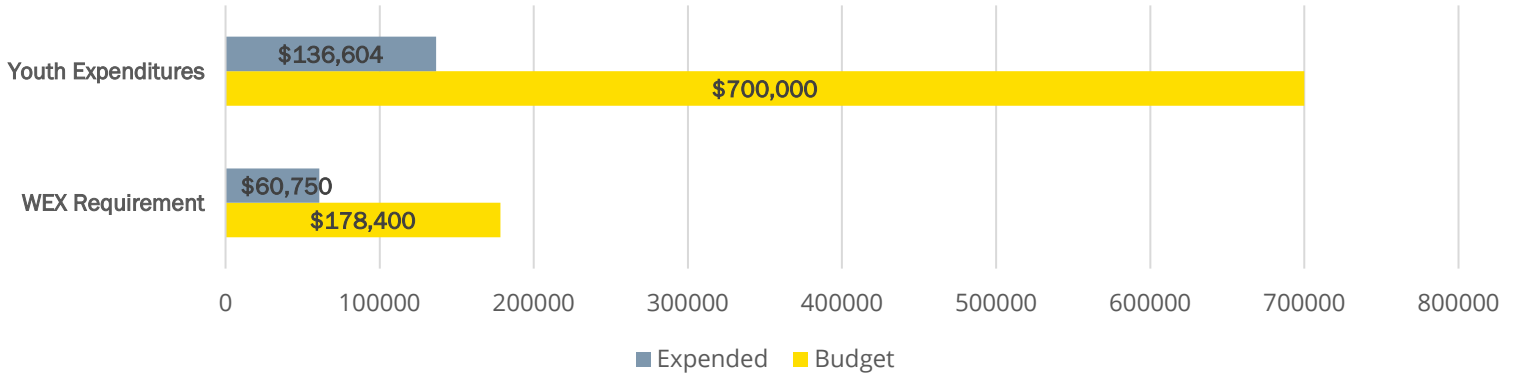
STATUS SUMMARY

BUDGET	OUTCOMES
Watch List (20% expended)	Watch List (25% into contract term)

OUTCOME OVERVIEW

OUTCOMES	ACTUAL	Q1/ ANNUAL GOAL	ACHIEVED
New Youth Enrollments	**16**	**15/80**	**106%**
Participants Carried In	45	-	-
Total Youth Served	61	-	-
New WEXs	10	-	-
Successful Completion of WEX	2	-	20%
Dropped/Unsuccessful WEX	1	-	10%
WEX In Progress	7	-	70%

BUDGET OVERVIEW



REGIONAL EQUITY AND RECOVERY PARTNERSHIPS (RERP)

PY 2026-27
1st Quarter
July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

RERP is a state-funded grant that represents an acceleration and deepening of the existing Regional Plan Implementation efforts and these funds are specifically targeted to support and invest in partnerships between WDBs and Community Colleges, attempting to add high road approaches to existing sector strategies and career pathway programs. "High Road" is a set of economic and workforce development strategies to achieve economic growth, economic equity, shared prosperity, and a clean environment. This project with Eckerd focuses on strengthening partnerships, referrals, and co-enrollments with SLO Cal Careers, Cuesta College and Allan Hancock College.

PROVIDER SUMMARY

SERVICE PROVIDER	BUDGET	CONTRACT TERM
Eckerd Connects	$379,769	04/01/23 – 12/31/26

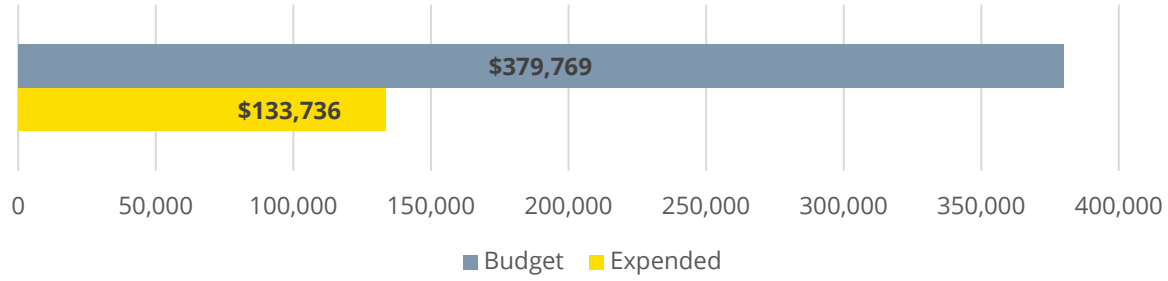
STATUS SUMMARY

BUDGET	OUTCOMES
Needs improvement (35% expended)	Needs improvement (93% into contract term)

OUTCOME OVERVIEW

OUTCOMES	ACTUAL	GOAL	ACHIEVED
Enrollments	19	20	**95%**
Work Experience	5	16	**31%**
Attained Industry Recognized certificate or credential	0	14	**0%**
Employment (New Employees)	4	16	**25%**
Training Related Employment	4	13	**31%**

BUDGET OVERVIEW



REGIONAL EQUITY AND RECOVERY PARTNERSHIPS (RERP)

PY 2026-27
1st Quarter
July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

RERP is a state-funded grant that represents an acceleration and deepening of the existing Regional Plan Implementation efforts and these funds are specifically targeted to support and invest in partnerships between WDBs and Community Colleges, attempting to add high road approaches to existing sector strategies and career pathway programs. "High Road" is a set of economic and workforce development strategies to achieve economic growth, economic equity, shared prosperity, and a clean environment. This project with Cuesta College Adult Education focuses on increasing access to no-cost digital literacy training in the community.

PROVIDER SUMMARY

SERVICE PROVIDER	BUDGET	CONTRACT TERM
Cuesta College Continuing Education	$15,500	04/01/23 – 12/31/26

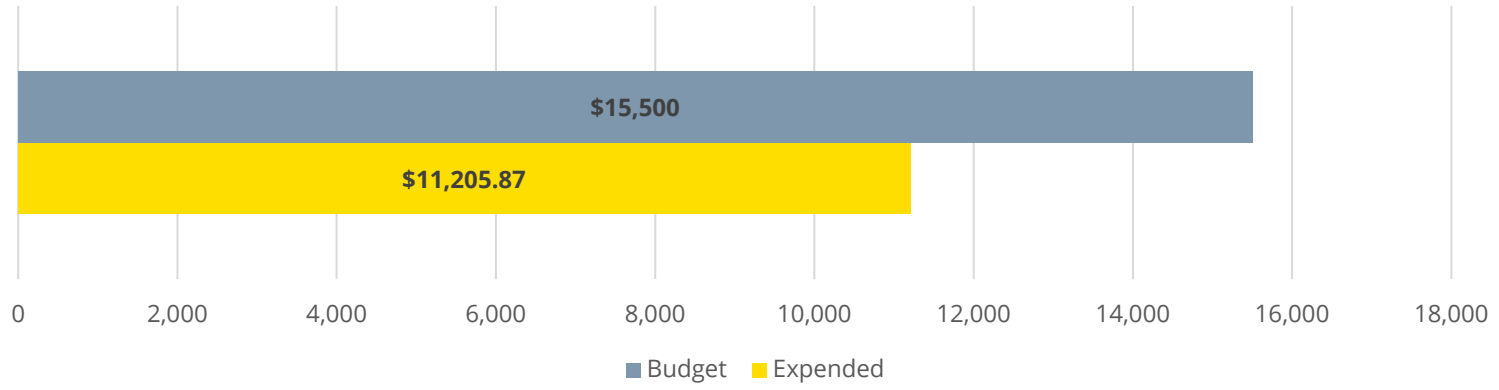
STATUS SUMMARY

BUDGET	OUTCOMES
Meeting Expectations (72% expended)	Metting Expectations (93% into contract term)

OUTCOME OVERVIEW

OUTCOMES	
Offered Fall 2025, Spring 2026	Current Fall 2026 Semester

BUDGET OVERVIEW



PRISON TO EMPLOYMENT 2.0

PY 2026-27
1st Quarter
July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

P2E 2.0 aims to achieve the development of regional partnerships and regional plans to provide and coordinate the necessary workforce, education, and related services that formerly incarcerated and other justice-involved individuals need to secure and retain employment and reduce the chances of recidivism.

PROVIDER SUMMARY

SERVICE PROVIDER	BUDGET	CONTRACT TERM
Eckerd Connects	$157,599	04/29/24 – 12/31/26

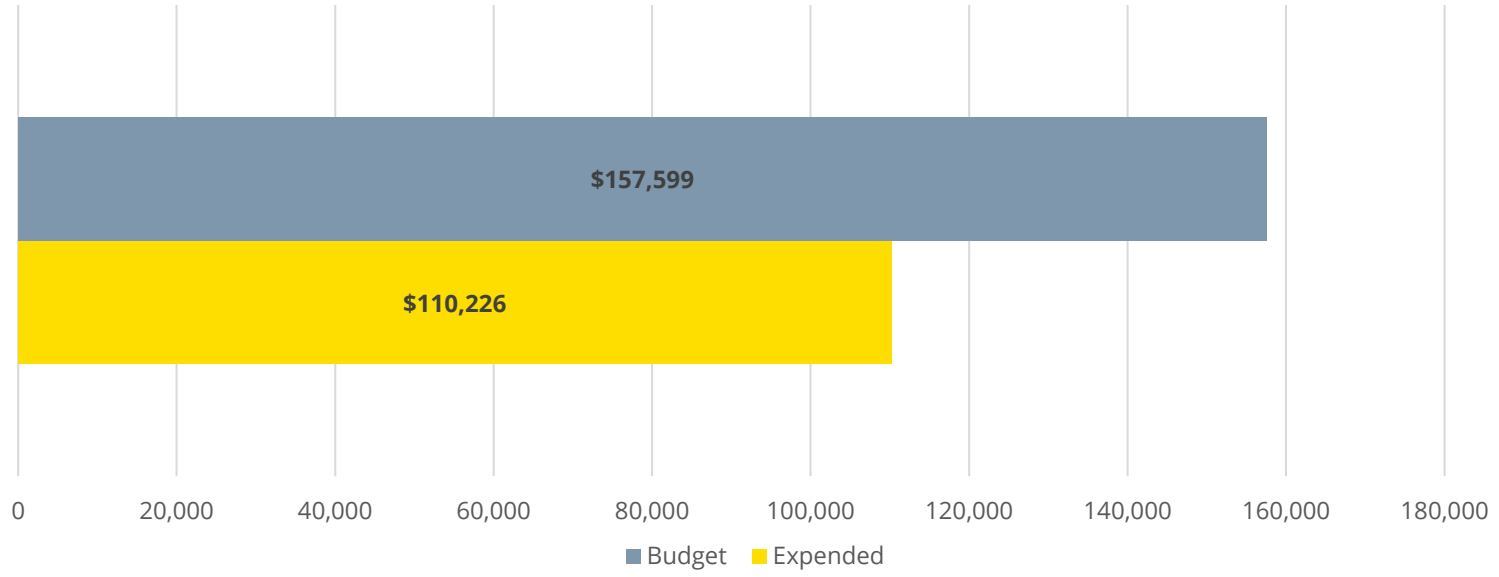
STATUS SUMMARY

BUDGET	OUTCOMES
Watch List (70% expended)	Watch List (91% of grant term)

OUTCOME OVERVIEW

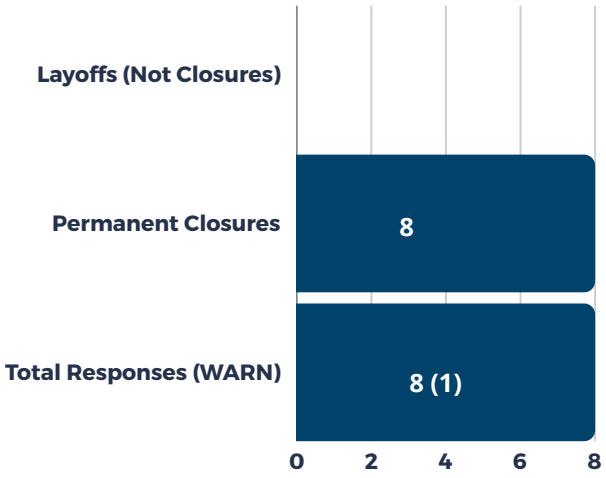
OUTCOMES	ACTUAL	GOAL	ACHIEVED
Enrollments	18	8	**212.5%**
Work Experience (WEX)	6	75% of enrollments	**33%**
Entered Unsubsidized Employment	7	75% of enrollments	**39%**

BUDGET OVERVIEW



Rapid Response

PROGRAM YEAR 2026-2027

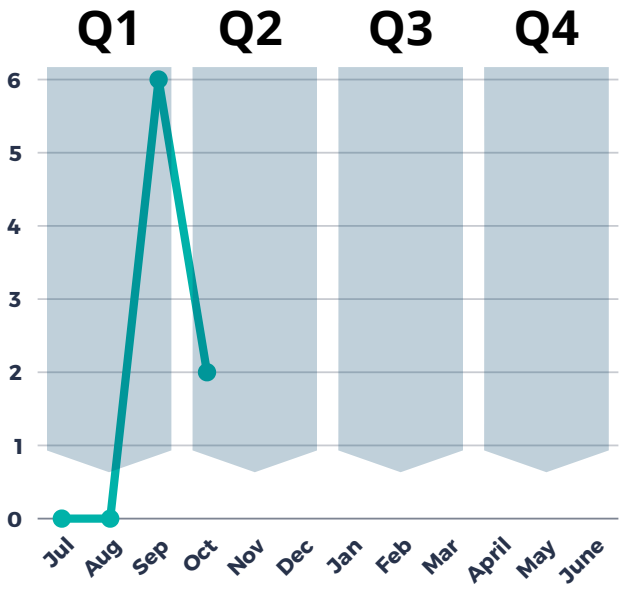


PROGRAM YEAR 2026-2027 RAPID RESPONSE SUMMARY

In program year 2026-27, eight Rapid Responses have been conducted throughout San Luis Obispo County. All responses will result closures. The business closures were identified via staff/WDB member referrals, media sources, and one was received via WARN.

RAPID RESPONSES BY QUARTER

To date, there have been eight responses conducted. In Q1, six responses took place in September. So far in Q2, there have been two responses. Of the rapid responses to date, all will result in closure, one is temporary with no listed re-opening date.



6.1K

Unemployed civilians in San Luis Obispo County in September 2026

4.6%

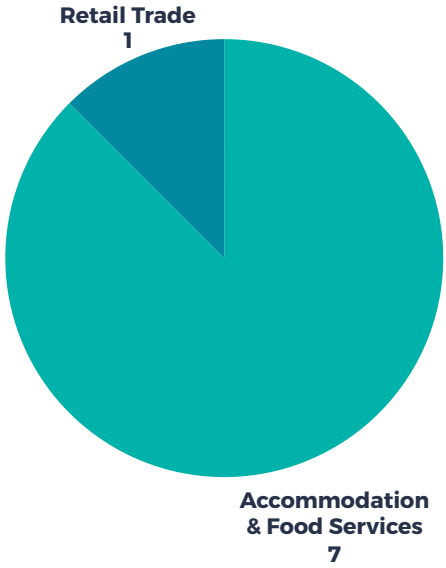
Latest Unemployment Rate in San Luis Obispo County

#13

San Luis Obispo County current rank for lowest unemployment rate in CA

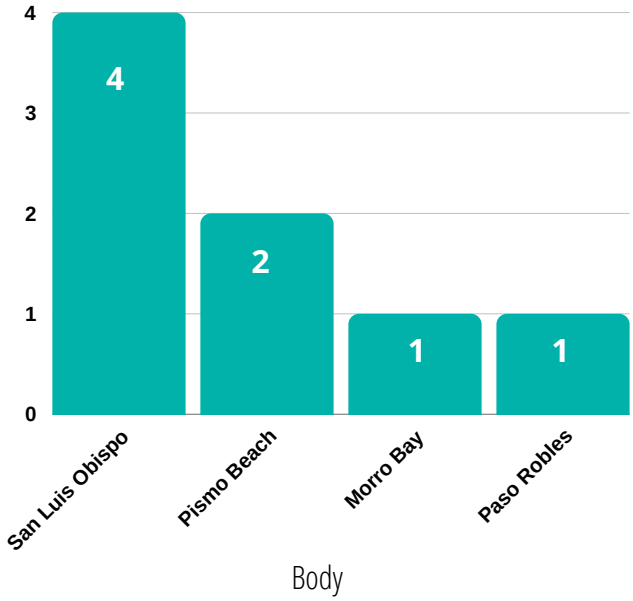
Rapid Response

PROGRAM YEAR 2026-2027



RAPID RESPONSE DATA BY INDUSTRY

Rapid Response data indicates that the Accommodation & Food Services industry has been the most impacted to date. This sectors account for over 87%. The Retail Trade industry was also impacted with one response. The single response in this sector accounted for just over 12% of the total responses.



RAPID RESPONSE DATA BY LOCATION

Four of the Rapid Responses conducted to date have been for businesses located in the city of San Luis Obispo. Two were in Pismo Beach. Morro Bay and Paso Robles each had one response.

Please notify our team about any business closures or layoffs at (805) 781-1908 or **SLOworkforce@co.slo.ca.us**

This Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I–funded program or activity is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For TTY dial 711. This project is funded 100% with federal WIOA funds awarded to the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo County by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration in the amount of $618,215 for WIOA Adults, $515,549 for WIOA Dislocated Workers, $911,495 for WIOA Youth, $155,662 for WIOA Rapid Response, and $58,838 for WIOA Layoff Aversion.

A Foundation for the Future:
One Veteran's Journey into the Skilled Trades



Transitioning from military service to civilian employment can bring unexpected challenges, even for veterans who possess valuable skills, experience, and a strong work ethic. For E.O., finding the right opportunity meant more than securing employment. It meant discovering a career pathway where he could continue building a future with purpose and stability. After overcoming significant personal challenges earlier in life, E.O. found direction through military service and was honorably discharged. However, upon returning home, he struggled to secure employment despite his background and experience.

Determined to move forward, E.O. connected with SLO Cal Careers workforce development services in 2024, beginning his journey in the High Road Construction Careers (HRCC) Pre-Apprenticeship Program. This opportunity introduced him to the skilled trades and provided a foundation for exploring long-term career opportunities. Throughout his journey, E.O. has demonstrated exceptional commitment to his professional development. He has remained actively engaged in workforce services, consistently participating in available workshops, seeking guidance, and taking advantage of opportunities to strengthen his skills and prepare for employment.

Through the coordinated efforts of workforce partners, including Career Team, Eckerd, and the local Plumbers and Pipefitters Union, E.O.'s dedication has translated into meaningful progress. Today, he is participating in an appreticeship with the local Plumbers and Pipefitters Union, gaining hands-on industry experience, developing valuable technical skills, and building connections that can support a sustainable career in the skilled trades.

Beyond his employment progress, what makes E.O.'s story especially meaningful is his gratitude and willingness to encourage others. During his first meeting with his Career Advisor, he volunteered to serve as a guest speaker to share his experiences and help other participants understand the opportunities available through workforce development programs. During a recent conversation, E.O. reflected on his experience, sharing that the program "helped him so much and he is forever grateful."

His journey demonstrates the impact of SLO Cal Careers services and strong community partnerships in helping veterans overcome employment barriers and successfully transition into civilian careers. By connecting career exploration, job-readiness services, pre-apprenticeship training, and work-based learning opportunities, the workforce development system can create pathways that lead to meaningful employment and long-term economic independence. E.O.'s success also reflects the importance of continued engagement and individualized support. His willingness to participate, learn, and remain connected to available resources has played an important role in moving him closer to his career goals.

For Career Team and our workforce partners, E.O.'s journey represents what workforce development is truly about: recognizing potential, creating opportunities, and empowering individuals to build better futures. From serving his country to building a new career in the skilled trades, E.O. continues to demonstrate resilience, determination, and gratitude. His story is not only a celebration of how far he has come, but also an inspiration to others who are working toward their own career success.

PROUD PARTNER
SLO CAL CAREERS
SKILLS TO UNLOCK OPPORTUNITY

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TEAM

POWERED BY eckerd connects | Workforce Development
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Ruby's SUCCESS STORY

Ruby joined the Eckerd Connects and the SLO Cal Careers Youth Program earlier this year after a referral from Family Care Network to help support her transition as she aged out of their program. With a strong interest in culinary arts, Ruby had recently enrolled in Cuesta College's Culinary Arts Program and has continued to thrive both academically and professionally.

Throughout her time in the Youth Program, Ruby has worked closely with her Career Coach to strengthen her workplace readiness skills, with a particular focus on interview preparation and professional development. Her passion for culinary arts has continued to grow through her studies, and she is committed to building a career in the food industry. While her long-term goal is to become a chef, Ruby is most motivated by the opportunity to give back to her community through food and service.

During meetings with her Career Coach, Ruby often shared the new skills she was learning, positive feedback from her instructors, and the projects she completed through her culinary program. These experiences helped build her confidence and prepared her to enter the workforce, where she hopes to gain a more hands-on customer service experience.



A Work Experience opportunity became available with CAPSLO's kitchen program at 40 Prado Homeless Services Center, and Ruby was eager to get involved. After successfully interviewing with the Kitchen Manager, she began her Work Experience and quickly discovered how much she enjoyed the role. Following her first week, Ruby shared how welcoming and supportive the staff had been, appreciating the opportunity to learn new skills. One such skill was inventory management, an essential component of operating a successful kitchen. Although she is still early in her Work Experience, Ruby has already received positive feedback from her Kitchen Manager, who has noted her ability to learn quickly and adapt to new tasks. He plans to rotate her through each kitchen station so she can gain a comprehensive understanding of large-scale food preparation and kitchen operations. As shown in the photos, Ruby is assisting with the preparation of meatloaf for dinner that evening.



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WDB FY 2026-27 Budget & Expenditures *YTD Expense thru 09/30/26* 3 month(s) elapsed

	Budget Narrative	Budget*	YTD Actuals	Percent Expended	Balance
DSS/WDB Staff Salary & Benefits	**DSS Administrative and Fiscal cost** These expenses are for DSS salaries and actual time spent on the WIOA Program. This includes WDB support, administrative support, program monitoring, contract management, procurement, state reporting, data management, and fiscal management support.	$ 509,427	$ 103,012.15	20.22%	$ 406,415
DSS/WIOA Operating	Operating expenses include travel, registration, memberships, legal notices, auditing and office supplies. Also included are labor market data subscriptions,outreach, WDB initiatives and State projects contracts and other WIOA system-wide projects approved by the WDB. Career Center facility rent and operations costs are also included here.	$ 438,950	$ 107,184	24.42%	$ 331,766
Eckerd- WIOA Youth	WIOA Title I Youth services - staffing, operations, facility and participant costs.	$ 700,000	$ -	0.00%	$ 700,000
Career Tean - WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker & Rapid Response	WiOA Title I One-Stop Operator; Adult, Dislocated Worker & Business servics, Rapid Response serivces - staffing, operations, and participant costs.	$ 800,000	$ -	0.00%	$ 800,000
Ekcerd - Prison to Employment (P2E) Non-WIOA Special Grant	Expanded career services to justice involved individuals. Staffing, operations and participant costs.	$ 79,327	$ 14,872	18.75%	$ 64,455
Eckerd - Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships (RERP) Non-WIOA Special Grant	Supporting alignment of job seekers with community college training. Staffing, operatrions and participant costs.	$ 293,836	$ -	0.00%	$ 293,836
Adult Education - Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships (RERP) Non-WIOA Special Grant	Digital Literacy Training	$ 50,794	$ 1,107	2.18%	$ 49,687
TOTAL:		**$ 2,872,334**	**$ 226,176**	**7.87%**	**$ 2,646,158**
		Target thru	*09/30/26*	*0.00%*	*3 month(s) elapsed*