

H RTP Fund Overview

The Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity's \$17.8M High Road Training Partnership Fund

Updated July 30, 2025

Apply by August 29, 2025, by 5:00PM Pacific Time for the Digital Navigators program.

Selected organizations will receive \$500K to \$1M grants for cross-sector partnerships to design and deliver industry-informed and worker-centered workforce training models that will serve at least 1,300 participants across all five Supervisorial Districts in diverse industries & occupations, and yield quality jobs and careers as well as equity and sustainability in the region.

What is the High Road Training Partnership Fund and how is it funded?

The Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO), High Road Training Partnership (H RTP) Fund is a \$17.8M grant opportunity supported by the [American Rescue Plan Act](#) and [Care First Community Investment](#), to provide grants to approximately 20 H RTP programs. This H RTP Fund is part of LA County's larger \$34M H RTP investment, aligning with the California Workforce Development Board's [High Road workforce development framework](#).

Awardees of the H RTP Fund, subject to availability and demonstrated need by program trainees, will be able to access the Worker Equity Fund (WEF). The WEF will provide supplementary, needs-based funding to a limited number of participants in H RTP programs.

What are High Road Training Partnerships?

H RTPs embody a bold and equity-focused approach to workforce development. To ensure that these programs effectively drive systemic change and foster an inclusive, resilient workforce, the following core components must be integral to all workforce development and training initiatives:

There are four core components of an H RTP model:

- **Strong Partnerships:** founded on strong, cross-sector partnerships with intentional collaboration and coordination in design, delivery and achievement of training outcomes and systems change impacts
- **Worker-Centered:** integrates the expertise and insights of workers at every stage of the partnership, shaping program need, design, implementation, and evaluation of impact
- **Industry-Driven Solutions:** identifies current and future industry-wide needs for a skilled workforce that can be solved for specific, local employers with a collaborative training solution
- **Training Solutions:** focus on building a skilled workforce that meets current employer needs and adapts to future challenges

For the LA County DEO, the goals of H RTPs are to:

- **Promote Equity:** Ensure all workers have access to quality jobs and [living wages](#)¹, upward mobility and wealth-generating opportunities, and safe and healthy workplaces

¹ Massachusetts Institute for Technology. Living Wage Calculator, Los Angeles County. Available at: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/06037>

- **Strengthen Economic Resilience:** Lead to a resilient workforce that can adapt to evolving industry needs and future challenges, fostering a robust local economy
- **Support Climate Resilience:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address the vulnerabilities of disadvantaged communities, and connect climate-change reduction to High Road workforce practices²
- **Improve Job Quality:** Offer pathways to living wages and have the potential to transform workers' lives, strengthen businesses and make them more resilient, and foster thriving communities, contributing to a more just and equitable economy³

What are the eligibility requirements to apply for grant funding?

For the Digital Navigators program, additional program specific information will be available in the Digital Navigators RFA Rider document which will be published on the highroadlac.com website on August 4 2025.

Partnership Eligibility

- At a minimum, an H RTP must include documented partnership commitments from at least two organizations and up to four organizations that cover all four of the key partner roles of convener, employer, labor or worker representative, and training provider. Additional formal or planned partnerships including implementing and service delivery partners, additional training providers, employers, or labor or worker representatives are encouraged but not mandatory
- One organization must serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent. It is strongly recommended that the fiscal agent has experience managing state and/or federally funded grants and the capacity to organize and coordinate project teams involving multiple organizations. A for-profit entity may only serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent if it is a workforce development provider
- All partners must be located in Los Angeles County
- Must attest that all partner organizations are legally registered, not debarred, and in good standing with all local, state, and federal taxing and licensing authorities

Process Eligibility

- Must submit a complete application before the deadline of August 29, 2025 for the Digital Navigators program, with all required details and documents

² California Workforce Development Board. *Climate in Workforce*. 2020. Available at: https://cwdb.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2020/08/OneSheet_Climate_ACCESSIBLE.pdf

³ California Workforce Development Board. *Job Quality in Workforce Development*. 2020. Available at: https://cwdb.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2020/08/OneSheet_Job-Quality_ACCESSIBLE.pdf

- Must execute the grant agreement by October 31, 2025 for the Digital Navigators program if awarded the grant and agree to expending grant funds and concluding the grant program by October 30, 2026 for the Digital Navigators program.

General Program Eligibility

- All industries are eligible except for non-sustainable industries such as oil or gas
- At least two priority populations must be served by the program
- All occupations are eligible as long as they align with the components of the H RTP framework
- All awardees must collaborate with LA County's AJCCs

Please note that once grants are awarded, all awardees will be required to participate in technical assistance and the Community of Practice.

What will grant awardees receive?

- **\$500K to \$1M in grant funding** depending on the stage of partnership development—
 - Piloting or Emerging (~12 awards): a project in this stage must demonstrate commitment to the H RTP model, and either requires funding to complete program design, curriculum development, partnership engagement, and pilot a training model during the 12-month grant term; or is ready to implement a new training model
 - Thriving and Growing (~8 awards): a project in this stage is an existing H RTP or industry partnership that can demonstrate its alignment with the H RTP framework. It is expanding the partnership and/or program scope. Thriving and Growing projects must show evidence of past success to inform their expansion
- Worker Equity Fund grants to extend **stipends to eligible training participants**, to be determined through a post-award process
- **Ongoing grant implementation technical assistance** in the form of Community of Practice sessions, Industry Analyses and Theory of Change workshops, and customized technical support (e.g., on data reporting and management)

What is the application process timeline?

The initial application window was open from Monday, April 14 and closed Friday, May 9 at 11:59 PM Pacific Time.

The Digital Navigators program application will open on Monday, August 4, 2025 and will close on Friday, August 29, 2025 at 5:00 pm Pacific Time.

How can I get started with my grant application?

- **Key documents and resources:** Review the website for RFA, application questions, and other resources to fully understand the requirements
- **Collaborate and form partnerships:** Identify collaborators and formalize partnerships to the extent possible before you start responding to the application
- **Office hours recordings:** Watch recordings of all four virtual office hours to understand H RTP components in-depth - available on <https://www.highroadlac.com/>
- **Email your questions:** Submit your questions related to the Digital Navigators program application via email at H RTP@dalberg.com by August 11, 2025 at 3:00PM Pacific Time. Look out for the Digital Navigator FAQs which will be published on August 18, 2025 with responses to the questions received
- **Finalize application:** Develop your application, ensuring all required attachments (e.g., partnership letters of commitment, budget) are included, and double-check for completeness and accuracy before submitting
- **Submit by deadline:** Submit a complete Digital Navigators program application before the deadline of August 29, 2025 by 5:00pm Pacific Time

Visit the LA County DEO H RTP website:

<https://opportunity.lacounty.gov/hrtp/>



Visit the H RTP Fund application website

<https://www.highroadlac.com/>



Questions? Submit questions to H RTP@dalberg.com. All inquiries will be logged, answered, and included in the FAQs document on the Fund application website. Please note that individual questions will not receive direct responses. *For the Digital Navigators Program, all questions must be submitted by Monday, August 11, 2025 before 3:00 PM Pacific Time. Responses will be included in the final FAQs document published on Monday, August 18, 2025.*



department
of economic
opportunity
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Dalberg **UCLA** Labor Center