

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Office of the Director

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WIC Advisory Committee
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, February 20, 2025
Via Tele/Videoconference

In Attendance:**DIR Staff**

Mark Chekal, Policy Advisor, Director's Office

Adele Burnes, Deputy Chief of Policy, Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS)

Cruz Lisette, Apprenticeship Consultant, DAS

Vanessa Soto, DAS

Romae-Anne Aquino, DAS

Committee Members:

Kasie Bowden, Hensel Phelps Contractors

Ashley Clark, Rising Sun Center for Opportunity

Erin Glenn, CA Civil Rights Department

Mona Gocan, 77 Electrical Services

Terri Golden, Tradeswomen, Inc.

Julia Hatton, Rising Sun Center for Opportunity

Sheri Learmonth, Marina Mechanical

Ashley Matthews, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board

Karri Novak, Suffolk Construction

Donna Rehrmann, Stomper Company

Mary Teichert, Teichert Construction

Carlos Torres, WINTER

Meg Vasey, National Taskforce on Tradewomen's Issues

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mark Chekal, Policy Advisor, Office of the Director

- A. Opening Remarks from Mark Chekal
- B. Committee member introductions
- C. Quorum was established.
- D. Mark Chekal requested consideration of a regular meeting day and time to avoid constant polling.
 - The third Thursday of each month (February, May, August, and November) was proposed and agreed upon.

II. Motion made and Committee voted for the approval of the October 2024 Meeting Minutes

- A. Correction: Ashley Matthews' name was misspelled in the October meeting minutes and work plan.
- B. Motion to approve the October meeting minutes with the correction made and seconded.
- C. Minutes approved by consent.

III. Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeship (ERiCA) Grant Update

Adele Burnes, Deputy Chief of Policy, DAS

- A. Round Two of ERiCA Grants:
 - \$13 million available. Solicitation for proposals is available on the DAS website. Deadline for proposals: March 12th.
 - Open to new applicants and Round One applicant who passed their annual review by December 31st.
- B. Three funding categories:
 - Outreach: \$ 100K - \$ 500K
 - Childcare: \$ 200K - \$ 1.5 million (requires also applying for Outreach funding)
 - Worksite Culture: \$ 100K - \$ 500K (mentoring, community building, mental health, anti-harassment training)
 - Grant performance period: June 30th, 2025 - June 30th, 2027. Intent to apply (email to DAS grants unit) due by tomorrow.
 - Online application process via CORD grant management system
 - Questions about grant mechanics cannot be answered after the deadline. Technical questions about applying can be emailed.
- C. Round One of ERiCA Grants:
 - 16 of 19 entities passed their annual review by December 31st and are eligible to apply for Round Two.
 - As of December 31st, 1,103 participants served with childcare funding; 194 (18%) are women. The benchmark was 15%.

- DAS is focused on rolling out Round Two and supporting Round One grantees needing extensions.

IV. Review and Discussion of Committee Workplan

- For updates on plan actions and outcomes, please see workplan document posted on the [DIR Public Meetings with the Office of the Director](#) website.

V. Report from the WIC Resources Subcommittee

- A. Sherry presented the recommendations from the January meeting.
- B. Mark explained the color-coding: Red = Director's Office; Green = Office of External Affairs; Yellow = Division of Apprenticeship Standards.
- C. Vanessa Soto compiling information from ERiCA grantees
- D. There was also a request for the website to be easy to navigate.
- E. Discussion
 - Meg Vasey mentioned that this does not only say pre-apprenticeship programs that are recipients of ERiCA. Other programs should be considered. This should be about women in construction, not trades.
- F. Actions
 - Have Adele to provide list of programs that are registered and pre-apprentice programs
 - Ashley M. to connect to the MC3 programs to present at next meeting.

VI. Public Comment

- A. No public comments

VII. Conclusion and adjournment

- A. Next meeting set for May 15, 2025, at 9:00a.m.
- B. Meeting adjourned