

July 14, 2021



Measure X Presentation: Working Towards Improved Employment and Food Insecurity Outcomes in Contra Costa County

Dr. Carole (“DC”) Dorham-Kelly, Chief Executive Officer, c
Kimi Barnes, Special Programs Manager, kimib@rubiconprograms.org

Rubicon's Theory of Change

Help participants achieve lasting economic mobility and as a result reduce recidivism



Contra Costa Workforce Collaborative

- Rubicon acts as the lead agency among nine official partners to operate the *America's Job Centers of California (AJCC)* on behalf of the CCC Workforce Development Board
- As the lead agency, Rubicon operates the main AJCC in Concord and provides career coaching staff at each adult education site and Los Medanos college
- Through the collaborative, individuals access general and intensive WIOA services through one of 12 access points throughout the County
- WIOA Services include:
 - Career assessments and advisement
 - Intensive Case Management
 - Job search and placement support
 - On the job training opportunities
 - Paid training programs

Collaborative Partners/Access Points

Non-Profit Workforce Agencies

- *Rubicon Programs (Concord and Antioch locations)*
- *Lao Family Community Development*
- *Opportunity Junction*
- *San Pablo Economic Development Corporation*

Local Community Colleges

- *Contra Costa College*
- *Los Medanos College*

Adult Education Partners

- Liberty Union
- Martinez
- Mt. Diablo
- Antioch
- Pittsburg

Contra Costa Workforce Collaborative

- Provide at least an additional 50% of Workforce Development Board formula funding (approx. \$700,000 in FY 2021-22) to provide:
 - ✓ Supplemental supportive services
 - ✓ Staff development and training
 - ✓ Population specific services (undocumented, justice impacted, disabled, public benefit recipients, etc.)
 - ✓ Opportunities for retention and advancement support
 - ✓ Increased support of CCWC since \$500k in additional assistance funding from FY 2020-21 is no longer available to support the work of the collaborative
- Establish a \$1,000,000 Training Support Fund for stipends to adult residents participating in education and training programs for support lasting at least six months and up to one year

CalFresh Employment and Training

- Increase access to CalFresh and provide CalFresh recipients with access to supportive services that reduce barriers to increased skills or credentialing opportunities
- Since 2016 Rubicon has partnered with the Foundation for California Community Colleges to provide the E&T “Fresh Success” program to eligible CalFresh Recipients that are:
 1. Participating in Rubicon’s programs, and
 2. Students at Diablo Valley College (“DVC”)
- Annual budget for “Fresh Success” grant at DVC is about \$200,000 and grant is set to end September 2021
- Financial model: The federal gov’t returns a portion of the costs used to implement an E&T program to be further invested in that E&T program

CalFresh Employment and Training

Student comments on Fresh Success:

- ✓ "It has helped me be able to achieve schooling that I wasn't able to do before. I feel that I can have a future now."
- ✓ "Fresh Success helped me feel confident that I could commit myself to a career certificate program while still being able to take care of my family."
- ✓ "I would have dropped out without my basic needs being met with the help of the Fresh Success program."
- ✓ "I am not sure how I would have made it without having all these benefits. I had never received the EBT card benefits in the past and was a little embarrassed in the beginning; but now it is normal for me to slide the card for food and pay for the non-food items. It is nice to be able to go to the store and get food from the market like everyone else. This has truly made a difference in my health in my health to have good reliable food to eat and books to read to continue to be successful at DVC."

CalFresh Employment and Training

- *What we've learned through surveys of participants:*
 - ✓ Food insecurity had a much more significant relationship to sense of self-efficacy than homelessness or employment status
 - ✓ Involvement in the DVC program improved “student persistence” from one semester to the next when compared to each student’s prior academic performance
 - ✓ 90% of recent DVC participants reported “Fresh Success has helped reduce barriers for me so that I can stay in college”
- *CalFresh Employment and Training funding opportunity in Contra Costa:*

Provide at least \$750,000 to continue support of Fresh Success at DVC and expand the program to students at other schools and eligible training programs throughout the County