

Attachment 2 - Applications Recommended for Appointment

Name
Nunez
Email

Title
Regional Director: Redwood Empire
Agency
California Department of Rehabilitation
Preferred Seat Type
Department of Rehabilitation
Address
50 D street Santa Rosa Suite 425 Santa Rosa, California 95404 United States Map It
Phone Number
Briefly describe your interest in the Workforce Investment Board and tell us a little about yourself. What strengths will you bring to our board?
I am passionate about contributing to the Workforce Investment Board due to my extensive experience in vocational rehabilitation and employment services, particularly with vulnerable populations such as individuals with disabilities and those facing homelessness. My strengths include program development, community partnership building, and providing person-centered support. I hold a Master's in Social Work with a focus on forensic mental health, and I have successfully guided individuals through employment pathways. I will bring strong leadership, advocacy, and a collaborative spirit to the board, ensuring we enhance workforce opportunities for all.
The WIB is committed to building and maintaining a diverse board and proactively recruits a wide range of groups for opportunities to serve on the board. Please explain your commitment to diversity, racial equity, and inclusion both personally as well as within your company or organization. Please provide examples.
I am deeply committed to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion, particularly for individuals with disabilities, racial minorities, and other underserved groups. Throughout my 15 years in vocational rehabilitation, I have actively worked to address historical disparities in employment and access to resources. One of my key initiatives as District Administrator (DA) was expanding the State Internship Program (SIP) across all offices in our district. This was the first time our district had a SIP intern in every office, which empowered individuals with disabilities to gain valuable work experience. To date, our district has hosted 12 SIP interns, two of whom were hired as permanent staff members. I have worked closely with team managers to operationalize onboarding, training, and supervising SIP interns, and I've developed a district-wide tracking system to ensure they receive LEAP certification and assistance with securing state positions.
In addition to the SIP initiative, I collaborated with Dreamcatchers, a Community Rehabilitation Program, to implement financial literacy training for individuals with disabilities. This training was crucial to ensuring equitable access to resources like the Consumer Payment Card (CPC), a system that enables electronic payments for DOR consumers. By offering financial literacy services, we

helped consumers gain skills necessary for using the CPC and living more independently. I also provided technical assistance to Dreamcatchers staff to ensure they were fully equipped to support consumers in overcoming any barriers related to CPC usage. As a result, the CPC has been implemented more smoothly, and consumers now have a dignified, convenient way to manage their finances.

I have been involved in numerous partnerships that promote racial equity and inclusion. For example, I've worked with the Pinoleville Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation program to develop a monthly case review process that fosters open communication between DOR and local tribal programs. This partnership has strengthened trust and collaboration, leading to better consumer engagement and a 30% reduction in case closures due to inability to contact. This initiative has been instrumental in providing culturally competent services to Native American consumers in our district and ensuring they receive the support needed to achieve employment and independence.

Moreover, I've formed partnerships with Napa County Health and Human Services to create an innovative training program for individuals with disabilities who are also involved in the county's drug court. This program, which uses On-the-Job Training (OJT) funds, prepares consumers for higher-skilled jobs in the hospitality industry. It also helps individuals who have experienced long periods of incarceration gain recent paid work experience. This collaboration has been successful in improving employment outcomes for justice-involved individuals, many of whom are racial minorities, and addressing the unique barriers they face in entering the workforce.

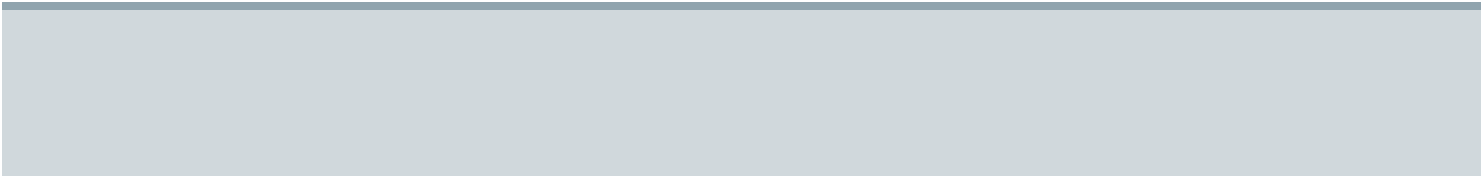
Another example of my commitment to diversity and inclusion is my work with the Committee for the Shelterless (COTS) program in Petaluma. I helped establish a DOR presence within COTS, which provides housing and stabilization services to over 70 individuals. Through this partnership, our district has received 10-20 new applications per month from individuals experiencing homelessness, many of whom are racial minorities or individuals with disabilities. By connecting these individuals to DOR services, we are helping them overcome barriers to employment and achieve greater economic independence.

Lastly, I've contributed to the statewide implementation of the Consumer Payment Card (CPC) within DOR, bringing together diverse stakeholders to ensure equitable access to electronic payments for all consumers. As DA, I collaborated with central office accounting, individual VRSD teams, and consumers to address barriers and ensure smooth implementation. By advocating for equitable access to financial tools, I've helped ensure that all consumers, regardless of their technical skills or background, can benefit from the CPC system.

In each of these roles, I have worked diligently to create inclusive environments, provide equitable access to resources, and ensure that diverse voices are represented. My commitment to diversity and equity is not only a personal value but a professional mission, and I am dedicated to continuing this work as part of the Workforce Investment Board.

Please upload your resume here.

Attachment 2 - Application Recommended for Appointment
page 3



Name

Garcia

Email

Title

Director, Adult Education

Agency

Sonoma County Adult Education Consortium

Preferred Seat Type

Adult Education

Address

1501 Mendocino Ave.
Santa Rosa, California 95401
United States
[Map It](#)

Phone Number

Briefly describe your interest in the Workforce Investment Board and tell us a little about yourself. What strengths will you bring to our board?

I have been the Adult Education Director for the Sonoma County Adult Education Consortium and Santa Rosa Junior College for almost three years, and I have worked for the consortium in other roles since 2016. I feel that I am the best candidate to represent Adult Education in the WIB because of all my years of experience working in Adult Education and because of the commitment I have for our student population. I have worked in Adult Education in different capacities: Administrative Assistant, Outreach Specialist, Instructor, Data & Accountability Manager and now as the Director. By working in these different roles, I have been able to work with students, instructors, staff, partners and community members and to learn how to meet the needs of our students. I would like to work with the other members of the board to create new partnerships and expand Adult Education programs and services in the county.

The WIB is committed to building and maintaining a diverse board and proactively recruits a wide range of groups for opportunities to serve on the board. Please explain your commitment to diversity, racial equity, and inclusion both personally as well as within your company or organization. Please provide examples.

I grew up in a small village in Mexico and immigrated to the United States at age 15. After finishing high school in the United States, I had the opportunity to attend college and be the first in my family to attain a college degree. I struggled acclimating to a new country, learning a new language, and learning to navigate the educational system on my own.

More than fifty percent of the students enrolled in the Adult Education program are immigrants like myself. I understand how difficult it is to learn a new language and how frightening it is to make the decision to attend college. Working in Adult Education, I feel that I can provide the same support and academic mentoring I once received. I was lucky enough to have instructors and staff who were

there for me to make sure I didn't give up. They helped me build confidence to realize my potential, and that is what I strive to do for the students in Adult Education programs every day. All community members should have access to education; no matter how old they are, their gender identity, race, ethnicity, or political views.

I love working in Adult Education, and I hope to continue doing this great work to provide opportunities for all the Sonoma County residents to have access to education.

Please upload your resume here.

Name
Beerbower
Email

Title
North Bay Bussiness Representative
Agency
Local 104
Preferred Seat Type
Business
Address
4350 central place Fairfield, California 94534 United States Map It
Phone Number
Briefly describe your interest in the Workforce Investment Board and tell us a little about yourself. What strengths will you bring to our board?
Workforce Development: Passion for creating and implementing programs that enhance workforce skills and employability. Interest in developing training and educational initiatives to meet labor market demands. Economic Development: Enthusiasm for strategies that drive local and regional economic growth. Interest in understanding and addressing economic trends and their impact on the workforce. Career Counseling and Mentoring: Commitment to providing guidance and support to job seekers and career changers. Interest in career coaching and helping individuals achieve their professional goals. Labor Market Trends: Curiosity about current labor market trends, job demand, and skills gaps. Desire to analyze and interpret labor market data to inform workforce planning. Training and Education: Interest in developing and promoting training programs and educational resources. Passion for supporting continuous learning and skill development. Public Policy and Advocacy:

Engagement with policies affecting workforce development and employment.
Interest in advocating for policies that support job creation and worker advancement.
Community Engagement:

Dedication to building strong partnerships with local businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations.
Enthusiasm for collaborative efforts to address community-specific workforce challenges.
Technology and Innovation:

Interest in leveraging technology and innovative solutions to improve workforce development.
Curiosity about emerging tools and platforms that enhance job training and placement.
Diversity and Inclusion:

Commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.
Interest in developing programs that support underrepresented or disadvantaged groups.
Economic Mobility:

Passion for initiatives that improve economic mobility and reduce barriers to employment.
Interest in strategies that provide pathways to better job opportunities and career advancement.

The WIB is committed to building and maintaining a diverse board and proactively recruits a wide range of groups for opportunities to serve on the board. Please explain your commitment to diversity, racial equity, and inclusion both personally as well as within your company or organization. Please provide examples.

My commitment to diversity and racial equity is rooted in the belief that a diverse and inclusive environment not only enriches organizational culture but also drives innovation and equitable outcomes

Please upload your resume here.