Creating Opportunities

California

Human Development

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Celebrating Over 40 years of Creating Opportunities

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act –
Creating jobs, Supporting Youth and Improving the Economy

Through a grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, California Human Development (CHD) provided 40 farmworker youth with the opportunity to participate in a Summer Youth Employment Program. The program offered pre-employment skills training, academic enrichment activities, placement in subsidized employment and one community service project. The purpose of the project was to remove barriers to success for the farmworker youth and provide opportunities for employment training and skills acquisition to this very vulnerable population. The program was tailored to the individual needs of the enrolled youth and focused on providing transferable skills that will assist the youth in becoming prepared for future academic and/or workplace success.

Sacramento Employment Training Agency awarded the grant to California Human Development. CHD partnered with various employers, including Sacramento Parks and Recreation to provide summer employment to the farmworker youth residing in Sacramento County. At the end of the program 20 youth went back to high school, seven at risk youth are graduating this year due to continued mentoring, and tutoring, 13 went on to colleges and universities to further their education, and three went on to vocational training. “This is the first targeted outreach to farmworker youth in the rural areas of Sacramento County. If California Human Development didn’t approach these youth through outreach they wouldn’t have the opportunities that this program has afforded them. Not only did they receive work experience, but they also learned the responsibilities that are expected of them as employees. In addition, the program encouraged participants to return to school and continue their education.” said Yolanda Chavez of California Human Development. Additional stimulus funding has been awarded to CHD to tutor and mentor an additional 30 academically at risk seniors between the ages of 16-21 and help them achieve success in their education.The summer youth program was so successful that Sacramento County Regional Parks was awarded the Outstanding Agricultural Program by the National Farmworker Jobs Program.