



Rapid Employment Strategies Pilot on Natural Disasters – RESPOND Drought

- In April 2014, the Panel implemented the Rapid Employment Strategies Pilot on Natural Disasters (RESPOND) Pilot Program in order to help mitigate the devastating effects to workers and industries in communities most severely impacted by the drought.
- The RESPOND Pilot Program provides funding under both ETP Core funding and ETP Alternative funding.
- Under ETP's Alternative Funding Program, only single employer or MEC contracts located within designated drought-impacted regions of the state are eligible for funding.
- Under ETP Core Funding projects located anywhere in California may be eligible for ETP funding.
- All projects eligible for funding under the RESPOND Pilot Guidelines will be deemed "Critical Proposals" with maximum flexibility and an expedited development/approval process.
- Literacy skills training is allowable for all RESPOND projects. However, total training hours must consist of at least 50% job-related vocational skills training.
- Occupation-specific safety training is allowable for all projects funded under ETP's RESPOND Pilot Program.
- The reimbursement rate for all RESPOND projects is \$18 - \$26 per hour. Standard program reimbursement may be increased on a case-by-case basis.
- There is no substantial contribution requirement for projects funded under ETP's RESPOND Pilot Program.
- All contracts approved by delegation order must be below \$100,000.
- RESPOND will initially provide rapid assistance relating to the current California drought, but may be amended later, as needed, to address other natural disasters.
- The standard minimum and maximum training hours are 8 and 200. An approved justification is required to exceed the maximum training hours.

For further information regarding this Pilot program, please contact [ETP's Economic Development Unit](#), or call 916-327-5258.