

NEW MEXICO

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes
Deputy Secretary Jon Clark

November 8, 2019

NMEDD Funds Job Training for 150 Employees

Job Training Incentive Program recipients for Nov 2019 average salary is \$25 per hour

Santa Fe, N.M. – The November 2019 Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) has awarded almost \$1.69 million to nine New Mexico companies. Additional trainees will earn an average of \$25 per hour, with salaries ranging from \$11.67 to \$55 per hour.

Industries from value-added agriculture, sustainable and green energy, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and bioscience, from Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Corrales, Santa Rosa, and Santa Teresa, were among the 12 companies awarded job training assistance, Economic Development Secretary Alicia J. Keyes announced on Friday. The funds will go toward many of Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and Secretary Keyes's target industries.

"We continue to see New Mexico companies growing and adding jobs," Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes said. "We are pleased that JTIP assistance is helping employees learn new skills so they can advance, earn higher wages, and build economic security."

JTIP is one of the most generous training incentive programs in the country, reimbursing 50-75% of employee wages for classroom and on-the-job training in new jobs for up to 6 months. The New Mexico State Legislature created JTIP, formerly known as the Industrial Development Training Program, or "in plant training," in 1972. Since then, JTIP has supported more than 1,600 training projects and the creation of nearly 47,000 jobs.

1. **GoLightly Cashmere, LLC** (1 trainee), Santa Fe - GoLightly began as a mail-order business, gradually scaling up, and in 2012 opened its first retail store in Taos: *Chocolate + Cashmere*. In 2014 a second store was opened in Santa Fe and in 2019 GoLightly Cashmere expanded once again, moving into a recently renovated 5,900 square foot production facility.
2. **Indica Labs, Inc.**, Corrales (11 trainees) - Indica Labs was founded in April 2011. The company provides solutions that streamline the image analysis workflow for digital pathology, including HALO and HALO AI for fast, quantitative evaluation of images and HALO Link for collaborative image and data management.
3. **IRD Fuel Cells, LLC**, Albuquerque (4 trainees) - The company supplies state-of-the-art components for high-quality, energy-efficient and eco-friendly fuel cells, electrolysers and redox batteries worldwide. The company's primary customers work with backup power for telecommunications, transport and the logistics sector – with the automotive industry expected to follow in the medium-to-long term.
4. **LoadPath, LLC**, Albuquerque (3 trainees) - Founded in April 2009, LoadPath delivers mechanical, structural, and thermal technologies for satellite and space launch applications.
5. **Meow Wolf, Inc.**, Santa Fe (26 trainees) - From Meow Wolf's beginnings as an art

collective in 2008, the company has grown into a successful manufacturer in the creative economy. The company creates immersive, multimedia experiences for audiences of all ages.

6. **New Mexico Hemp Services, LLC**, Santa Rosa (2 trainees) - NM Hemp was founded by Vincent Cordova in Santa Rosa and Puerta de Luna, N.M. in January of 2019. The New Mexico Department of Agriculture issued a license to the company to farm hemp. The company will have a fully operational cloning facility, farming operation, drying & processing operation, and CBD oil extraction operation by the end of 2019. Funds will be used to train high-wage administrative staff.
7. **PhytoRemedies, LLC**, Albuquerque (25 trainees) - PhytoRemedies provides processing services and value-added products derived from cannabis flower.
8. **Solar Works Energy, LLC**, Albuquerque (16 trainees) - Solar Works Energy provides solar energy to hundreds of customers since their inception in 2015 and has become one of the highest rated solar installers in New Mexico. The company continues to grow and will be hiring at all levels to support the company's growth.
9. **Systems Integration, Inc. (SII)**, Albuquerque (22 trainees) - SII has opened a contact center to support a five-year service contract with the Transportation Security Administration. They have transitioned 74 employees of the former TSA contractor, and the contract requires 96 employees of which 22 will be new hires through JTIP.
10. **Unity BPO**, Albuquerque (14 trainees) - Unity BPO is a healthcare business process and technology company. Unity has clients throughout the U.S.
11. **Universal Sheets, LLC**, Santa Teresa (15 trainees) - Universal Sheets specializes in corrugated packaging. In 1982, CSI established the first dedicated sheet feeder facility in North America, thereby creating an entirely new business sector within the corrugated industry.

Paradise Power Company, Inc. (PPC Solar), Taos, was awarded a Step-Up grant for 11 trainees (upskills training for incumbent workers). PPC Solar specializes in the design, installation, maintenance, and operations of solar systems. PPC Solar is one of the longest operating solar installers in the U.S., installing photovoltaics systems in New Mexico and Southern Colorado.

In addition to the approved funds, the board led a discussion about the upcoming public policy hearing. The proposed changes will bring the minimum wage required for the most basic level of JTIP participation up from \$11 to \$13 per hour in urban areas and \$9.50 to \$12 per hour in rural areas, with an increase over the next three fiscal years to bring the minimum rates ultimately up to \$15 in urban and \$14 in rural FY23.

JTIP Public Policy Hearing

Nov. 20, 2019

9 a.m.

CNM Workforce Training Center, Albuquerque

Please submit all public comments no later than November 15, 2019 to Sara.Gutierrez@state.nm.us. Written comments must be received in advance.

Eligibility for JTIP funds depends on the company's business, the role of the new jobs in that business, and the trainees themselves. JTIP eligibility guidelines can be found on the [EDD website](#). The JTIP Board meets monthly to consider proposals & amendments from companies. To learn more about JTIP and other EDD programs, visit <http://gonm.biz>.

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The New Mexico Economic Development Department's mission is to enhance and leverage a competitive environment to create jobs, develop the tax base and provide incentives for business development.

