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Office

# COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **GREEN TEAMWORKS PUTS FOSTER YOUTH TO WORK**

RIVERSIDE, CA. – Community Action Partnership of Riverside County (CAP Riverside) has launched an exciting new initiative, GREEN TEAMWorks. This program places Foster Youth that have turned 18 and are termed out of the foster care system into weatherization jobs with CAP subcontractors. The first class began training on May 11. In the first three months, the youth are skills tested, receive financial literacy and job preparation education and are matched with a subcontractor, where they will receive basic weatherization training. They will receive tools and begin on-the-job training (OJT). Each will receive an \$8 per hour stipend from CAP Riverside, which will increase to \$8.50 in the fourth month.

Additional training and OJT will continue in months 4-6 and in months 7-9 their stipend will be increased to \$10 per hour, half paid by CAP and half by the subcontractor. At the end of nine months, they will have a graduation at the Board of Supervisors meeting. The goal is for them to then receive permanent employment, at least one per subcontractor, having been trained and experienced in weatherization and home repair.

Lois J. Carson, CAP Riverside Executive Director, said, “Foster youth, an untapped employment source, often leave the foster care system without job skills. CAP Riverside’s innovative, “win-win” model, GREEN TEAMWorks, is easy to replicate, trains foster youth to be weatherization technicians and matches them with weatherization contractors who create new green jobs. GREEN TEAMworks is modeled after CAP Riverside’s highly successful workplace mentoring program and community assessment surveyors program. Participants learn how to expand partnerships to groom and match foster youth with contractors; implement a focused work plan, training plan and orientation; and manage a cost effective project to generate a high impact Return on Investment.”

CAP Riverside’s partners in GREEN TEAMWorks include Riverside County Department of Public Social Services Independent Living Region, Riverside Community College Independent Living Program and Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services.

The first class of GREEN TEAMWorks participants are Michael Alafa, Sterling Anaya, Beau Bryan, Avery Garey, William Jones, Franklin LeHotta and LaSondra Pullum. The participating weatherization subcontractors are BAB Construction, Synergy Companies, Hopkins Painting, Vasquez Group, Ace & Sons, James D. Restoration and Energy Services Partnership, Inc.