



EDD

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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State supports 763 new jobs through Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP)

Santa Fe, N.M. – New Mexico Economic Development Department has awarded \$3.9 million in Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) Funds to support training of 763 new employees in Albuquerque, Bernalillo, and Santa Fe, Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes announced Monday.

The awards were made at the Dec. 13 JTIP board meeting. The salary offered by these new positions ranges from \$15 and \$47 per hour. The Board also voted to increase the minimum hourly wage requirement for JTIP grants starting in 2020.

The companies represent a diversity of industries in New Mexico, including paper processing, customer service, high tech aerospace, biomedical innovations, hemp, steel, healthcare, and even caskets .

"The December awards represent a broad range of businesses," Keyes said. "From steel manufacturing to value-added agriculture and from molecular modeling to health care, the EDD is helping to train workers in all corners of the economy."

The following companies received JTIP funding in December:

Amfabsteel Inc, Bernalillo, 26 jobs, Avg hourly wage \$21.04

Amfabsteel is a design-build structural steel fabricator, located in Bernalillo since 1984. Previous JTIP funds were used in 2016 to add a second shift to their 30,000 sq ft facility, which is running at full capacity. These funds will be used to create a much needed third shift. Amfabsteel plans to add an additional 30,000 sq ft of production space in the near future.

Carenet Healthcare Services, Albuquerque, 46 jobs, Avg hourly wage \$11.75

Carenet has been providing solutions for nearly 15 years that help healthcare consumers make better decisions while improving the quality and cost of care. In late 2018, Carenet opened a consumer engagement center in downtown Albuquerque. They plan to hire 240 employees over the next several years.

Faneuil, Inc., Albuquerque, 564 jobs, Avg hourly wage \$15.19

Faneuil has specialized in multi-channel customer care, back-office business processing, and solutions to government and commercial clients, for more than 25 years. Faneuil has leased a 47,806 sq ft in Albuquerque and are hiring numerous quickly and will be

operational by Jan 2020. When fully staffed, they will have 700 employees.

Family Hemp Brands, LLC, Santa Fe, 7 jobs, Avg hourly wage \$20.79

Family Hemp Brands was founded by native New Mexican, John Sedillo in 2018, as the first extraction and manufacturing facility in New Mexico to be certified by the New Mexico Dept of Environmental Safety. With one consumer product on the market, they plan to launch two additional brands by the end of 2019 and four more in 2020.

Fathom-NM, Albuquerque, 57 jobs + 1 intern, Avg hourly wage \$17.33

Fathom, a physical hemp exchange specializing in post-harvest processing, certification, and sale of hemp, has leased a 50,000 sq ft facility in Mesa del Sol.

Indica Labs, Inc. Albuquerque, 1 job, Avg hourly wage \$43.27

Indica Labs, founded in 2011 in Corrales, provides solutions that streamline the image analysis workflow for digital pathology. Previous JTIP funds have been used to train 30 employees and 2 interns and now need to train or a high-wage Quality Assurance Manager.

OpenEye Scientific Software, Inc., Santa Fe, 5 jobs, Avg hourly wage \$47.40

OpenEye, headquartered in Santa Fe, develops large-scale molecular modeling applications and toolkits aimed toward drug discovery and design. Previous JTIP funds were used to train 12 employees, and with their recent release of a new toolkit for biomolecular structure preparation, several positions are needed to support the new software and existing products.

Passages International, Inc. Albuquerque, 3 jobs, Avg hourly wage \$20.64

Passages was founded in 1999 in the back of a funeral home in Taos. They are a manufacturer and distributor of biodegradable and eco-friendly funeral urns and caskets. Today they sell their products from their offices in Albuquerque throughout the U.S. In 2018 they moved to a 30,000 sq ft facility to meet the growing demand for their products and received JTIP funding to train 12 employees. Current funding will increase their staff by 3 more sales-related positions.

Phat Steel, Inc., Bernalillo, 12 jobs, Avg hourly wage \$20.79

Phat Steel, a subsidiary of Amfabsteel, is a miscellaneous steel fabricator. Phat Steel has received previous JTIP funds on two separate occasions, training 18 new employees. In creating a second shift to meet increasing production demands, they will use the new funding to train 12 new skilled professionals.

Roses Southwest Papers, Inc., Albuquerque, 34 jobs, Avg hourly wage \$15.03

Roses is a family owned and operated business based in Albuquerque since 1984. Roses has expanded its equipment lines to 12 napkin, tissue, and towel converting machines to produce a multitude of sanitary paper products. Roses continues to expand and requires additional staff.

Systems Integration, Inc (SII), Albuquerque, 2 jobs, Avg hourly wage \$35.62

SII has opened a contact center in Albuquerque to support a five-year service contract with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The company will add 22 new hires and the new funding will pay for training two additional IT staff positions.

Unity BPO, Inc., Albuquerque, 5 jobs, Avg hourly wage \$23.29

Unity is a healthcare business process and technology company with clients throughout the U.S. Previous JTIP funds were used to train 112 employees, and current funding will add an additional 5 positions.

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.

In addition to the companies that were funded the JTIP Board approved changes to the wage schedule companies will be required to meet in order to qualify for JTIP. These changes will take effect July 1, 2020 and will continue to change as the minimum wage

increases in New Mexico. The board also adopted language that would allow some companies to qualify under the existing wage thresholds if they are in compliance with their existing LEDA requirements and meeting all other wage requirements of the State of New Mexico.

The amendment will raise the requirement from \$11 to \$12.50 per hour in urban areas and \$9.50 to \$10.63 per hour in rural areas, with an increase over the next four fiscal years to bring the minimum rates ultimately up to \$15.50 in urban and \$13.18 in rural FY24.

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The New Mexico Economic Development Department's mission is to improve the lives of New Mexico families by increasing economic opportunities and providing a place for businesses to thrive.

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