The Back 2 Work program continues to pivot through COVID-19 to face the challenges presented, provide essential duties for the state, prepare for drastic systems and economic changes and work with agencies throughout the state to address the inequities that are on full display during these times. Our team worked around the clock to ensure that our participants were able to remain employed, gain work experience and earn an honest living all while businesses, organizations and social spaces shut down everywhere. We were able to provide virtual safety trainings, contract compliance, professional development and an online learning platform to ensure our program staff and participants remained safe and employed.

New Partnerships/Program Expansion!

In August, B2W brought new partners (subcontractors) into three counties to provide more holistic services to our communities, we added new work crews in three counties, and we continue to transition people back into the workforce. Five Keys Schools & Programs, now serves Veterans throughout the San Diego community for B2W. Five Keys provides education services throughout the state and continues to address systemic inequalities in education, housing and employment. Our partnership in San Diego officially kicked off the first week of August and participants are excited to have more services provided to them.

We also welcomed Community Services Employment Training (CSET) as our new partner in Bakersfield to serve veterans. CSET offers a plethora of services that will provide a more holistic approach to our participants. CSET is dedicated to eradicate poverty in the Central Valley.

Last but certainly not least, we welcomed a new partnership in Fresno with Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO). CEO is one of the nations leaders in workforce development for system impacted adults and we’re so excited to bring this partnership to Fresno!

In addition to this partnership, CEO added an additional work crew which allows them to serve even more returning citizens.

Amidst our state facing some critical financial times during the COVID-19 pandemic, Caltrans still recognizes the value of these crews and the support they add to each local community. Therefore, we were able to launch 3 additional work crews in various counties.

Fathers and Families of San Joaquin (FFSJ) currently operates two crews and launched a third crew in August. The crew was equipped with a brand new van, PPE’s and other essential tools, allowing them to go out into the field in the safest way possible.

In August, The Chrysalis Center (Chrysalis) launched a second crew in Orange County. The new work crew was provided extensive Covid-19 safety training, PPEs and procedures to follow so they could safely work through this pandemic. Chrysalis will now double the amount of people we are able to serve in the OC!
B2W x Bitwise Collaboration

Back 2 Work teamed up with Bitwise Industries to write a grant provided by SMUD. This grant would provide scholarships and equipment for a STEM Training Program. If awarded, this 14-week web/app development pre-apprenticeship program would begin in early 2021.

SUCCESS STORY AARON MAXWELL

In 2015 Aaron Maxwell worked with the Back 2 Work program in Los Angeles. Upon completion he was hired by our partners at Chrysalis to help launch their Roads Program with Caltrans and the City of Los Angeles. From there Aaron was hired by Caltrans as an Equipment Operator where he has sustained a great career for the past several years.

Aaron promotes success and change with hard work and a great work ethic.

Keep up the good work Aaron!

Caltrans Annual Litter Day

During the Annual Litter Day in June, multiple news outlets highlighted the litter abatement work being done through our partnership between Caltrans, Back 2 Work and community based partners. Each year we work w/ Caltrans and participate in the massive roadside pickup event to help clean up the highways and #KeepCaliforniaBeautiful.

Gary Harris, a former B2W participant in Sacramento who is now a Site Supervisor for our partner CEO, Center for Employment Opportunities, was interviewed and was able to share his story and successes.

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