



For Immediate Release – April 18, 2024

Contact: Lupe Ma'afu 650.898.5055 or 650.834.7619 or email lmaafu@1epa.org

One East Palo Alto (OEPA) and its partners, College Track, El Concilio of San Mateo County, JobTrain, Live In Peace and Belle Haven Community Development Fund are now hiring young people ages 14 to 24 years old for the Sponsored Employment Program (SEP). SEP is a crime prevention initiative that provides summer employment, mentoring and community connectedness opportunities for young people at highest risk in East Palo Alto (EPA) and Belle Haven/eastern Menlo Park (EMP). Applicants must be residents of EPA or EMP and able to supply **proof of right to work** in the United States. SEP especially seeks to hire EPA/EMP youth and young adults with challenges to employment such as no work experience, involvement in the juvenile justice system, limited or no English language skills, homeless, foster care, teen parenting, no high school diploma/GED (over age 18) or low income. Additionally, SEP is always looking for young people who are naturally curious, love to talk and listen and have high interest in such fields as Environmental and Social Justice, Technology (STEM), Health, Construction or Education.

Beginning June 21, 2024, applicants selected to be SEP participants will be assigned to a Peer Mentor cohort and receive three (3) afternoons of intensive job readiness training. After training, the young people will be engaged part-time for six (6) weeks as **SEP Professionals** dispensed to local nonprofits, schools and businesses to gain work experience and begin building their respective career networks. Additional weekly trainings will equip participants in the Seven Principles of Workplace Excellence, money management, career exploration, public speaking, problem solving, health & wellness, technology et al. SEP participants will work from June 27, 2024 through August 7, 2024. Their successful completion of the program will be celebrated with an awards ceremony scheduled for **Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 5pm.**

Applications are online and can be accessed beginning April 18th at www.1epa.org.

SEP also offers job opportunities to local college students. Successful candidates will have completed at least two years of college. They must also be able to demonstrate excellent communication, customer service, problem solving and computer skills as well as a passion for seeing youth achieve their full potential. These college students will work part time from June 11th to August 12th as SEP Peer Mentor/Program Assistants. They will facilitate connections between SEP youth and adult mentor/coaches, model workplace excellence and lead their mentor teams in becoming the most valuable workplace assets in town. Interested college students should submit a resume, cover letter, and an essay or 2-minute video/reel entitled “***What I tell my younger relatives about staying grounded in chaotic times***” to Rev. Teirrah McNair at revt@1epa.org.

Deadline for applications is May 15, 2024. Peer Mentors should submit resume and other materials immediately.

For more information call Lupe Ma'afu at 650.898.5055 or 650.834.7619 or e-mail [**Lmaafu@1epa.org**](mailto:Lmaafu@1epa.org).

Belle Haven Community Development Fund • 1364 Sevier Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025
Mailing address: PO Box 2005, Menlo Park, CA 94026 • (650) 999-0545
College Track • 1877 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 • (650) 614-4875
El Concilio of San Mateo County • 2396 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 • (650) 330-7432
JobTrain • 1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025 • (650) 330-6429
Live In Peace • 321 Bell Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 • (510)772-8917
One East Palo Alto • 903 Weeks Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 • (650) 980-1809