

# Quake's jobless finding work through program

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A program designed to help people who lost their jobs because of the earthquake is making progress matching those who need work with those who need workers.

Two weeks ago, the program, which is being administered by the Job Training Partnership Act in Santa Cruz County, and JobLink in Monterey County, was having some difficulties placing workers in the available jobs.

Now, however, "it's actually going really well," said Alan Knox, client services director of JTPA.

Employers have requested workers for 110 jobs, Knox said. JTPA has about 42 people already working and 25 or so wait-

ing to hear if they've been accepted by prospective employers.

The JobLink office, which is also handling Watsonville cases and hasn't had as many applicants, has jobs lined up for about seven people.

The program was set up to put people who lost their jobs because of the earthquake to work in earthquake cleanup, restoration and other earthquake-related activities for public and private non-profit organizations. The money for the program, given to the state by the federal government, is used to pay workers' salaries in the temporary positions. There is no cost to the employer, and employees are paid at the prevailing wage for the type of work they are doing. The program is scheduled to end May 31.

Santa Cruz County has received \$962,000 for the program, enough for 133 jobs, paying upward of \$9 an hour. Monterey County received about \$400,000, enough for between 50 and 60 jobs.

The County of Santa Cruz was among the biggest takers of the workers, requesting 38, Knox said. People have gone to work for the county in the Planning Department, Public Works Department and the Human Resources Agency, doing everything from clerical work to outreach to plastering.

Salud Para La Gente has made 24 requests, many of them for Spanish-speakers who the program was having trouble placing elsewhere.

Six workers have been approved for Fenix Services Inc., for a variety of jobs including outreach workers, handymen and clerical workers. Fenix suffered severe quake damage and is using some of the workers to try to put its offices back together, Knox said.

The City of Santa Cruz has requested 11 workers and Watsonville three. Catholic Charities, the Community Action Board, Food and Nutrition Services and the Freedom Fire Department have also made requests.

Two organizations involved with working on housing repair, the Watsonville Housing Restoration Coalition and the California Disaster Program, have requested workers from the Monterey County office.