



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sacramento, Calif.

California Homebuilding Foundation Named Home Depot Foundation Path to Pro Education Grant Recipient

The California Homebuilding Foundation (CHF) is proud to announce it has been selected as a recipient of The Home Depot Foundation's [Path to Pro Education Grant](#), supporting construction trades education and workforce development in California through the Donald Chaiken Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA).

The Path to Pro program addresses the nation's growing skilled labor shortage by expanding access to training and certification in the construction trades. As experienced tradespeople retire, too few trained workers are entering the field. Through strategic partnerships, Path to Pro is building a diverse, job-ready talent pipeline prepared to meet industry demand both now and in the future.

This \$10,000 grant will directly support CHF's Youth Workforce Education Program at **Don Bosco Technical Institute** in Rosemead, California (Los Angeles County), where high school students engage in hands-on construction training that blends college-preparatory engineering coursework with technical education in the building trades.

In response to the ongoing wildfire challenges facing Southern California, the Home Depot Foundation grant will strengthen workforce training focused on resilient construction practices, helping build up the skilled workforce needed to rebuild communities and teach modern building design strategies that reduce future fire risk. California has historically led the way in wildfire mitigation in new home construction, and this funding allows students to learn and prepare to enter a workforce critical to the state's recovery and long-term resilience.

Through this investment, the BITA program at Don Bosco Technical Institute will enhance its tools and classroom resources to teach modern home hardening and wildfire defense strategies. Students will gain hands-on experience with dual-pane windows, cement siding and other non-combustible exterior materials, metal roofing systems, ember-resistant vents, and metal gutters and downspouts, while also learning the fundamentals of land development and urban design. The grant will also provide essential program supplies,



specialized tools, safety equipment, and work clothing for students preparing to enter internships and active job sites.

“We are incredibly grateful to The Home Depot Foundation for their generous \$10,000 grant,” said Jill Herman, Executive Director of the California Homebuilding Foundation. “These funds allow us to place the right tools, materials, and safety equipment directly into the hands of our BITA students, giving them the opportunity to learn modern construction techniques, including critical fire-resistant building practices. More than enhancing our program, this support invests in the confidence, skills, and futures of young people who are preparing to enter an industry that will play a vital role in rebuilding and strengthening our communities.”

“We are excited to put this grant from The Home Depot Foundation to immediate use,” said Brian Waters, Instructor at Don Bosco Technical Institute. “The new tools and materials will allow us to introduce advanced construction techniques, including fire-resistant and code-compliant building practices, directly into our curriculum. This support creates meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that prepare our students for the evolving demands of the construction industry and strengthen their readiness for real-world careers.”

Through this partnership, the California Homebuilding Foundation and The Home Depot Foundation continue their commitment to prepare the next generation of skilled builders while equipping students with the knowledge and experience necessary to build safer, more resilient communities across California.

About the California Homebuilding Foundation

The [California Homebuilding Foundation](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting California’s homebuilding industry by funding scholarships, supporting industry research, and developing workforce training programs. Through initiatives like the Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA), the Foundation is committed to preparing the next generation of builders and strengthening the future of housing in California.

About Don Bosco Technical Institute

[Don Bosco Technical Institute](#) is the only Catholic applied science high school of its kind in the U.S. The high school uniquely combines a rigorous college-preparatory program with STEM-based studies. This innovative approach allows students to exceed university admissions requirements while completing extensive integrated coursework in one of six



technology/engineering fields. These fields include Computer Science & Electrical Engineering, Media Arts, Material Science, Integrated Design, Architecture & Construction, and Biological, Medical & Environmental Technology. The school is located at 1151 San Gabriel Boulevard, Rosemead, 91770.

About The Home Depot Foundation

[The Home Depot Foundation](#), a nonprofit supported by The Home Depot, works to improve the homes and lives of U.S. veterans, support communities impacted by natural disasters and train skilled tradespeople to fill the labor gap. Since 2011, the Foundation has invested more than \$650 million in veteran causes and improved more than 70,000 veteran homes and facilities. The Foundation has pledged to invest \$750 million in veteran causes by 2030 and \$50 million in training the next generation of skilled tradespeople through the Path to Pro program by 2028. To learn more about The Home Depot Foundation visit [HomeDepotFoundation.org](#) and follow us on [X](#) @HomeDepotFound and on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @HomeDepotFoundation.