Wescom Financial Partners with FHLBank San Francisco to Award Rancho Cielo a $200,000 Grant to Tackle Transportation Barriers for Students

SALINAS, CA (October 30, 2026) — Wescom Financial, in collaboration with the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco (FHLBank San Francisco), will deliver a $200,000 AHEAD Program grant to Rancho Cielo, a Salinas-based nonprofit organization dedicated to helping younger generations build brighter futures through vocational training and high school education.

Wescom applied for the grant in partnership with Rancho Cielo. After a competitive selection process, Rancho Cielo was awarded the AHEAD Program grant to fund their "Workforce Mobility Toolbox" initiative, an 18-month program designed to systematically dismantle transportation barriers that prevent low-income youth in Monterey County from achieving economic self-sufficiency.

This transportation project will support a flexible “toolbox” of mobility solutions: a state-licensed driver’s education program, subsidized public transit passes, on-demand Lyft/Uber passes for specialized vocational workforce internships transit, and part-time (in-house) drivers for Rancho Cielo-owned vehicles that transport students to/from the campus and school-related activities. By providing a menu of options, this grant will ensure that every student can reach the Rancho Cielo campus for academic and technical instruction, earn industry-relevant skills certifications, travel to paid internships at employer job sites and participate in service-learning opportunities at community events and school fundraisers.

"We are incredibly grateful to Wescom for this generous grant toward transportation services at Rancho Cielo," says Rancho Cielo Interim CEO Susie Brusa. "Transportation is one of the biggest barriers to success for our students. This generous gift will not only help transport students to campus for their education and training but will also help fund our Driver's Ed program. The life skills and independence afforded through these gifts are priceless."

AHEAD grants enable FHLBank San Francisco members like Wescom to give a critical boost to local economic development programs and projects that directly address pressing needs in low- to moderate-income communities.

“As a California-based financial institution dedicated to helping Californians build better lives, we’re especially proud to support Rancho Cielo and the next generation of the Monterey County workforce,” said Ashley White, Senior Vice President, Chief Marketing Officer at Wescom Financial. “By directly investing in the growth and development of this generation, we’re also contributing to the immediate and long-term economic success of local businesses and the wellbeing of the community as a whole.”

FHLBank San Francisco Senior Vice President and Community Investment Officer Tom Dapice says AHEAD grants support local organizations that provide job training, support small businesses, and open pathways to economic opportunity. "These grants can change lives and strengthen communities. We are proud to partner with our member Wescom Financial to support innovative economic development initiatives, like this one with Rancho Cielo, which will have a lasting local impact.”

“AHEAD grants support local organizations that provide job training, support small businesses, and open pathways to economic opportunity — work that can change lives and strengthen communities,” said Tom Dapice, senior vice president and community investment officer of FHLBank San Francisco. “We are

proud to partner with our members to support innovative economic development initiatives that have a lasting local impact."

For those interested in applying for the AHEAD Program in future funding cycles, please contact Wescom or visit the FHLBank San Francisco website to learn more.

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About Wescom Financial
For more than 90 years, Wescom Financial has been dedicated to building better lives for Californians through a full array of banking products and services, including insurance and investment solutions. Wescom also offers accessible financial education, top-rated digital banking tools, lower loan rates and fees, and higher savings yields. Today, with 30 branches between Southern and Central California, Wescom serves more than a quarter million individuals. The Wescom Foundation, its charitable arm, supports community-based organizations through strategic grantmaking and community engagement. Wescom is federally insured by NCUA and is an Equal Housing Opportunity Lender. For more information, please visit wescom.org.

About Rancho Cielo
Based in the heart of the Salinas Valley, Rancho Cielo is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit investing in young people facing challenges for success through diploma education, vocational training, life skills development and wraparound support in a safe and affirming environment. Students earn a WASC-accredited high school diploma and leave prepared for college, careers, post-secondary training and military service, with the goal of sustaining fulfilling careers within five years of graduation. Established in 2000 on 100 acres, Rancho Cielo has served over 2,250 students from Monterey County for more than 25 years. Visit ranchocieloyc.org for more information.

About the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco
The Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco is a member-driven cooperative helping local lenders in Arizona, California, and Nevada build strong communities, create opportunity, and change lives for the better.

The tools and resources we provide to our member financial institutions — commercial banks, credit unions, industrial loan companies, savings institutions, insurance companies, and community development financial institutions — propel homeownership, finance quality affordable housing, drive economic vitality, and revitalize whole neighborhoods. Together with our members and other partners, we are making the communities we serve more vibrant and resilient.

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