



Frequently Asked Questions:

What does the Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD) do?

To support economic development in Los Angeles, EWDD offers small and large business owners access to direct and indirect financing, loan assistance and a slate of informational workshops at nine BusinessSource Centers. EWDD and its contracting partners also run a network of 17 WorkSource Centers, offering job training and referrals. Additionally, EWDD helps young adults ages 14 to 24 prepare for college and the workforce at its 16 YouthSource Centers. The department also manages and leverages city-owned property assets with the goal of revitalizing neighborhoods, spurring economic activity and creating jobs. All of EWDD's services are free to qualifying clients.

Is this a new city department?

Yes. EWDD was formed July 1, 2013 to support and grow Los Angeles' economic and workforce development in a manner that yields thriving businesses and a capable workforce. As envisioned by Mayor Garcetti and the City Council, EWDD's highest priority is job creation through education, training, small business support, microenterprise incubation, business retention and attraction activities, neighborhood revitalization and project financing. Much of EWDD's current workforce previously worked in the discontinued Community Development Department.

Did EWDD take the place of the former Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA)?

Yes and no. With the dissolution of community redevelopment agencies statewide, EWDD is charged with managing, acquiring, disposing and leasing city-owned property assets received from the former redevelopment agency. It does the same for other city-owned sites located near public transit corridors with a potential to spur job growth, commercial activity and mixed-use development. However, unlike the CRA/LA, EWDD does not have the ability to independently finance its activities through tax increment. EWDD, in partnership with the

Mayor's Office and City Council, is exploring ways to finance a vigorous economic development function.

What services are provided at a WorkSource Center?

Clients are matched with a jobs counselor to create an employment plan. This plan could include a variety of services, including job training, improving language skills, practicing interviews and accessing business-ready attire. Job seekers also have free access to computers, printers and JobsLA.org, an employment website with 50,000 L.A.-specific job listings. Each of the city's 17 WorkSource Centers focuses on two high-growth industries, such as logistics or healthcare or green technology, to better prepare clients for the jobs of today. Job Portals, a smaller version WorkSource Centers, are located in city libraries and other select sites.

What services are provided at a YouthSource center?

YouthSource Centers offer one-on-one counseling to help youth ages 16 to 24 return to school or complete the high-school equivalency exam. Youth also receive career readiness services, such as how to write a resume, conduct a job interview and create a personal budget. Mentors encourage participants to sign up for the annual HireLA's Youth program that provides six weeks of subsidized work. The program, a partnership of the City and County of Los Angeles along with participating employers, provides real-work experience, creates networking opportunities and prepares youth for the discipline of college and career. In 2015, more than 11,600 Los Angeles youth obtained summer jobs.

What services are available at a BusinessSource Center?

Business owners can get help identifying and applying for working capital and specialized loans, writing a business plan, and learning about tax incentives and credits that will help them grow and improve their business. For employers, the centers host job fairs and offer retention services and organizational assessments.

Does EWDD provide any other services?

Yes. EWDD contracts with community-based nonprofits to operate seven Day Labor Centers. These centers help to reduce the number of day laborers who congregate on city streets and provides them with a safe location to gain job skills, ESL instruction, legal advocacy and workplace safety information. EWDD also has a dedicated film and TV industry liaison who administers the FilmLA contract and works to address the needs of the film and television industry and impacted communities to ensure a film-friendly experience.

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