EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the Los Angeles regional economy recovers from the Great Recession, labor market and demographic data for the region continues to reflect an uneven recovery in which large segments of the labor market such as low-income, English Language Learners, single mothers, disconnected youth, and individuals without a post-secondary education or training continue to face significant challenges in accessing quality employment. Income inequality is particularly pervasive for men and women of color, with gender and racial wage gaps at every level of educational attainment. Putting all residents on the path to economic security through equity-focused strategies and policies to grow good jobs, build capabilities, remove barriers, and expand opportunities for the people and communities being left behind remains the guiding principle for this plan.

The Workforce Development Board (WDB), along with the City Council and Mayor, develops policy and provides the oversight for workforce development programs in the City of Los Angeles. The Year 18 WDB Annual Plan covers the service strategies, activities, and budget for the City's Workforce Development System (WDS) for the Program Year 2017-18. The Annual Plan is developed under the framework outlined in the Workforce Development Board - Local Elected Official (WDB-LEO) agreement.[1] The plan outlines how the City will deliver services and meet the objectives of the WDS. It describes how the City will achieve its priorities and meet workforce development needs in Los Angeles through the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD).

EWDD administers workforce development programs that are funded by federal, state, and local governmental agencies as well as by private entities through its Workforce Development Division (WDD). The EWDD manages a network of service providers comprised of WorkSource Centers (WSC)[2] and YouthSource Centers (YSC). These centers, located in strategic areas throughout the City, provide diverse workforce development services for job seekers, businesses and youth. Services are provided through a collaborative network of partners, including the State of California's Employment Development Department (EDD) and Department of Rehabilitation, the Los Angeles Unified School District and other educational institutions, chambers of commerce, economic development agencies, and other concerned entities. Through these partnerships, WorkSource and YouthSource Centers serve over 65,000 adults and nearly 23,000 youth annually.

[1] The WDB/LEO is a formal Memorandum of Agreement between the WDB and the elected officials of the City of Los Angeles

[2] The City of Los Angeles designates its One-Stop Career Centers locally as "WorkSource Centers, a proud partner of America's Job Centers of California."

STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE PLAN

The WDS will continue to improve and target workforce services to individuals lacking economic opportunity through its long-term strategic goals and specific annual objectives, including the following goals:

- Strengthen connections with major economic drivers in the region
- Strengthen Industry Sector Strategies
- Target vulnerable populations with a geographic focus
- Address homelessness with more employment opportunities
- Focus on the reentry population
- Focus on disconnected youth
- Alignment of City and Regional Planning Efforts

CURRENT ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON EMPLOYMENT

The Region and Local Economy

In the development of any plan to provide workforce development services, it is important to understand the economic landscape. As of February 2017, the City of Los Angeles had a civilian labor force of 2,048,000 individuals.[3] Of that number, 104,200 (5.1 percent) were unemployed, a slight increase from April 2016, when the City of Los Angeles had a civilian labor force of 2,008,300 individuals and 99,700 (5 percent) were unemployed.[4]

Employment and Educational Outlook for the City of Los Angeles

Although declining over time, the unemployment rate in the City of Los Angeles still remained higher than the state and county rates in 2016. The city faces a skills gap challenge, where the job market has an increasing need for workers with specific skills and education, and where a significant portion of the workforce lacks technical skills or even a high school diploma. To address continuing higher unemployment levels and the requirements of the growing knowledge-based industries, there is a need to focus on this gap. The adult system will continue to expand collaboration with local educational institutions to address the needs of both job seekers and employers. To increase the

[3] California Employment Development Department February, 2017.
[4] California Employment Development Department March 4, 2016.

number of city residents who complete high school, the youth system will continue to partner with education and other community service organizations to expand high school dropout recovery efforts.

Available Resources

The City will receive $38.8 million in WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker (DW), and Youth formula funds from the State for Program Year 2017-2018 as detailed under *Tab 5 Budget*. As the allocation for Rapid Response has not been announced, the City is assuming funding of $1.1 million, based on the amount received in Program Year 2016-2017 and reductions to the underlying Dislocated Worker funds. In addition to these formula allocations, the City will receive additional city, county, and additional competitive awards and grant funds amounting to $21 million. The City anticipates a carryover amount of $7 million composed of both WIOA formula and other workforce related grants. Total available revenue for WDS activities is projected at $67.8 million.

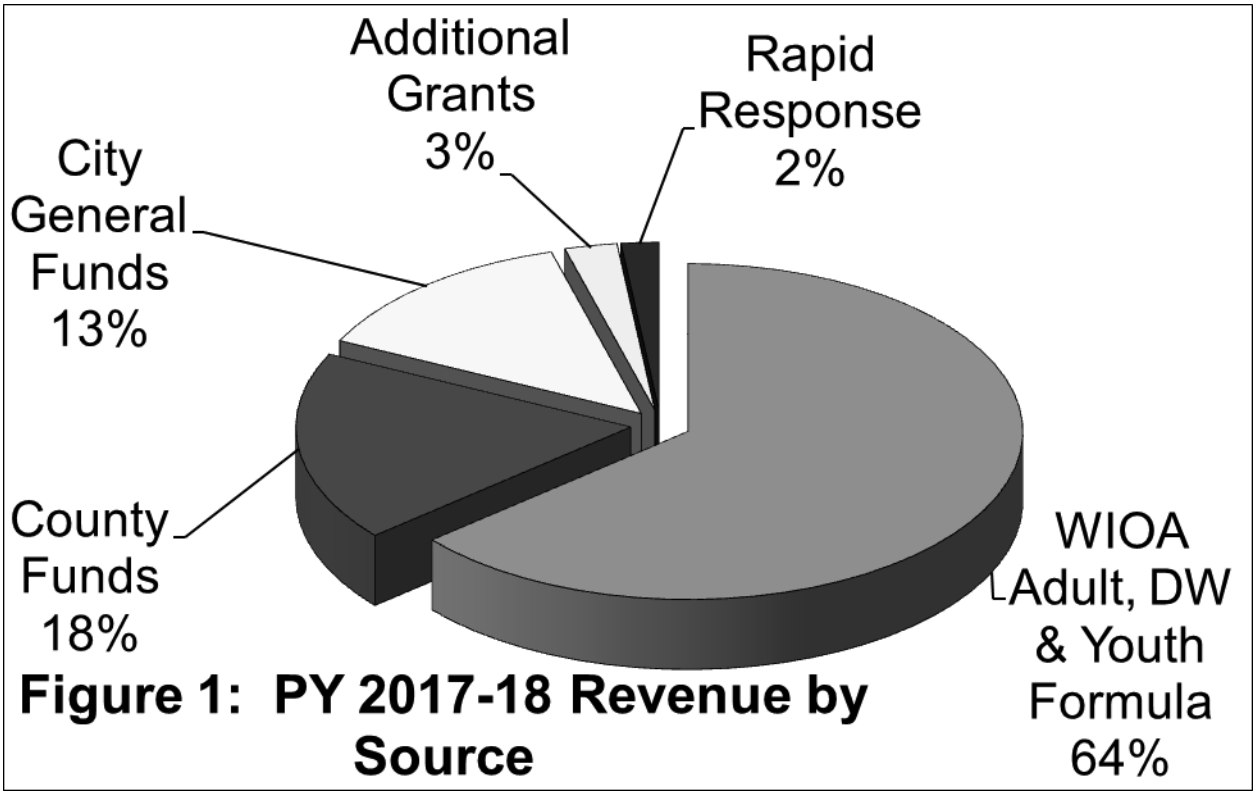

Figure 1: PY 2017-18 Revenue by Source