

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 19 WDB Annual Plan covers the service strategies, activities, and budget for the City’s Workforce Development System (WDS) for the Program Year 2018-19. 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 composed 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 17,000 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 Center of Californiasm network.”

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:

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

CURRENT ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON EMPLOYMENT

Employment and Educational Outlook for the City of Los Angeles

In the development of any plan to provide workforce development services, it is important to understand the economic landscape. As of March 2018, the City of Los Angeles had a civilian labor force of 2,078,500 individuals.³ Of that number, 86,000 (4.2 percent) were unemployed, a moderate improvement from March 2017, when the City of Los Angeles had a civilian labor force of 2,065,100 individuals and 97,400 (4.7 percent) were unemployed.⁴

Although in 2017 the unemployment rate in the City of Los Angeles improved and was more or less aligned with the state and county rates, many of the city's residents have been left behind from the recovery. In some areas of the city, 30 to 50 percent of working age residents lack a high school diploma. In general, unemployment decreases and wages increase with higher education attainment, yet racial and gender gaps persist in the labor market among full-time workers at all educational levels. Income inequality is also pervasive in the region, with 24.5 percent of African Americans and 23.7 percent of Latinos living in poverty.

³ California Employment Development, Monthly Labor Force Data, March, 2018.

⁴ California Employment Development, Monthly Labor Force Data, March 4, 2017.

Available Resources

The City anticipates receiving \$34 million in WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker (DW), and Youth formula funds from the State for Program Year 2018-2019 as detailed under *Tab 4 Budget*. At the time of the Annual Plan’s approval, the allocation for Rapid Response had not been announced, therefore the City assumed funding of \$1.2 million, based on the amount received in Program Year 2017-2018. In addition to these formula allocations, the City anticipates receiving additional city, county, and additional competitive awards and grant funds amounting to \$30.8 million. The City anticipates a carryover amount of \$6.5 million composed of both WIOA formula and other workforce related grants. Total available revenue for WDS activities is projected at \$72.5 million.

