CREEK WILDFIRE GRANT HELPS JOB SEEKERS GAIN SKILLS WHILE RESTORING AREA

The City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) received a National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) in 2018 to employ crews of workers to help with the cleanup of areas affected by the December 2017 wildfires in Sunland-Tujunga, Sylmar and Sun Valley. The Hollywood WorkSource Center, run by EWDD contractor MCS, assembled six active crews with four employer partners and is currently working at sites affected by the 2017 Creek Fire. This week, EWDD Updates shares more stories of participants whose lives have been positively impacted by the grant.
BRIAN Y.
Brian Y. was unemployed more than a year when he followed through on a referral to work in the wildfires clean-up effort. After completing OSHA 10 training and receiving supportive services toward a bus pass for public transportation, Brian started work in August 2018 in Tujunga at the McGroarty Arts Center, a property of the City of LA Department of Cultural Affairs. The job helped improve his planning and leadership skills and gave Brian a sense of accomplishment because his crew’s work directly helped areas and lives affected by fires, he said. By October 2018, Brian realized he wanted a career in public service or government. Brian was soon hired by a new employer and is now working in restoration and landscaping.

CHRISTOPHER P.
In summer 2018, Christopher P. was working at a low-wage job when after witnessing the heroic work of firefighters in Griffith Park, he felt inspired to change direction. Christopher received an email referral to join a wildfire clean-up crew and jumped on the opportunity. Christopher enrolled in the Hollywood WorkSource Center, where he received WIOA supportive services and OSHA training to begin work at the McGroarty Arts Center in August 2018. He took an interest in the different power tools used on the job and shadowed his supervisors to gain enough experience and confidence to become one of the principle chainsaw operators in his crew. After working with the clean-up crew, Christopher was hired as a sawyer by a new employer where he now works as a supervisor. The experience taught Christopher that he eventually wants to take more classes to become a wildland firefighter, he said.

Employment opportunities with the Creek wildfire crews are ongoing.

For more information, please contact Noel Khoshabou at the Hollywood WorkSource Center at (213) 355-5304 or nkhoshabou@mcscareergroup.com
MORE THAN 200 FEMALE BUSINESS OWNERS LOOK TO EWDD FOR TIPS

More than 200 female business owners visited EWDD’s Business Advancement Team (BAT) booth at LA Women’s Entrepreneurship Day Celebration on November 19, 2018, an event held by Mayor Garcetti's Office of Economic Development. Approximately 600 women attended the event, which was designed to help women-owned businesses realize their full potential in Los Angeles. Many of the inquiries were from existing business owners, who were struggling to fund rising business costs and wanted to learn about EWDD’s business assistance programs. The BAT provided guidance and referrals to the appropriate experts during and after the event.

(left) EWDD Assistant Chief Grants Administrator Jackie Rodriguez and EWDD Senior Project Coordinator Vanessa Willis assist female small business owners at LA's Women's Entrepreneurship Day on November 19, 2018.
EWDD’S RAPID RESPONSE TEAM & BSC HELP EMPLOYEES BUY BUSINESS FROM BOSS

In 2016, EWDD awarded a contract to Concerned Capital, a mergers and acquisition firm based in LA’s downtown Arts District that specializes in helping employee/ownership buy-outs in small businesses, as part of a pilot program to use Layoff Aversion funding to transition company ownership from retiring owners to long term employees. As part of their contract, Concerned Capital worked directly with three retiring Los Angeles small businesses owners, including a print shop and a bakery, helping them transition their businesses by selling to one or several of their employees, thus saving jobs and ensuring the business remained open. Over the course of two years, approximately 23 jobs were saved. The program also illustrated the synergy between the EWDD’s Rapid Response Team and BusinessSource Centers, in providing transition services to businesses and resources to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Box Pack & Ship

When Ray Gomez and Daniel Goodman learned that owners of their company were retiring, they decided to purchase the business. Ray has 25 years of experience in the shipping industry and knew customers from coast-to-coast in need of professional packing and logistics services for high-valued items including art and collectables. His co-worker Daniel understood the back office work of documentation and billing. After meeting with a consultant at one EWDD’s BusinessSource Centers, Ray and Daniel met with EWDD contractor Concerned Capital, a private investment firm dedicated specifically to tackling the issue of job displacement created by retiring business owners. Concerned Capital helped the new team identify resources needed to negotiate a site, prepare projections and incorporate in time to successfully launch Box Pack & Ship. In October, the team secured a 5,600-square-foot warehouse at 3800 S. Main St. in Los Angeles and rehired four of their former co-workers, and quickly added two more once sales picked up. Box Pack & Ship provides clients around the world with packing, crating, transportation and storage services. Clients include museums, galleries, private collectors, and dealers.
BUSINESS METRICS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LABSCs Reporting:</th>
<th>North Valley, West Valley, East LA, Mid City, Central West, and Harbor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LABSCs Not Reporting:</td>
<td>Hollywood, South LA and South Valley,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microenterprise enrolled</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microenterprise assisted</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small businesses enrolled</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small businesses assisted</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of BSC clients who attended workshops</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WORKFORCE METRICS:
(arrows indicate weekly trend)

CalJobs (online and mobile)

370 Registrations
22% ↓

WorkSource Centers

1,000 Enrollments
30% ↓

“Updates” is the weekly report from the EWDD General Manager to the Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti, and is produced by EWDD’s communications section. If you have questions, comments or wish to have a contribution considered for an upcoming “Updates,” please contact Jamie Francisco at (213) 744-9048 or Jamie.Francisco@lacity.org