LA’S NINE BIZ CENTERS SET BRISK PACE IN MEETING PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2015-16

LA’s nine BusinessSource centers have submitted their performance reporting for the first two quarters of FY 2015-16. A total of 1,521 pre-startup, startup and operating businesses were assisted, creating 428 jobs or half of the centers’ annual goal. BusinessSource center staff helped secure 140 new loans, 86% of the program-wide annual goal. That amounts to nearly $19 million in new capital to LA businesses. Job creation and business enrollment performance is summarized by location of each BusinessSource Center in accompanying charts.

**LA:RISE gets underway:** LA:Rise enrollments are nearing 100 and participants are being matched with subsidized, supervised positions through one of EWDD’s social enterprise partners. This first group is receiving mentoring and job training. Beginning in January, they will start moving into permanent jobs. LA:RISE, funded through a federal workforce grant, will assist 500 disconnected youth, formerly homeless and individuals who have been in the justice system prepare for the labor market.

**JobsLA.org stats:** Number of users this week: 1,138 for a total of 88,764 page views. Job seekers stayed online for average of 24 minutes; 82% of users are from Los Angeles and 22% are new to JobsLA.org.

**LACI campus recognized:** The Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) was ranked No. 3 on the list of World Top University Associated Business Incubators for 2015, announced today by UBI Global. This is the second consecutive year the tech hub in downtown Los Angeles has received such an honor; last year UBI named it the No. 6 incubator globally. LACI has proven a successful incubation and commercialization model and established itself as a global leader among cleantech incubators, helping over 40 companies, who have raised $60 million and have created more than 700 jobs. EWDD steered $2.6 million in CDBG grant funding to help LACI get up and running and has also provided assistance to the LaKretz Innovation Campus where it is located.
**P3 work group meets:** EWDD staff met Dec. 17 with Chamber of Commerce partners to discuss the federal Performance Partnership Pilot initiative, an effort aimed at integrating delivery of education, workforce and social services to disconnected youth ages 16 to 24. EWDD led the effort for a $700,000 federal grant that gives agencies flexibility to use dollars that might otherwise be restricted. Services are targeted at youth who are homeless, unemployed or out of school, and include referrals to health and mental health programs operated by LA County. **Highlight:** the working group learned that each youth in program will receive a free YMCA membership.

**Workforce Development Board meeting:** At a Dec. 14, Workforce Development Board meeting, members addressed how Los Angeles can increase workforce development services to underrepresented populations, including Asian-Americans, male African Americans and workers over age 50.

**Starbucks youth hiring event:** Planning is underway for a Feb. 11, 2016 youth hiring event sponsored by international coffee giant Starbucks. At EWDD, staff is meeting with Starbucks representatives, YouthSource center officials and community leaders to ensure a healthy turnout and successful event. Thirty employers participated in a similar hiring fair held earlier this year in Chicago, resulting in 800 jobs being offered to youth on the spot. Starbucks has assembled a private-sector coalition of employers and set a goal of training and hiring 100,000 youth ages 16 to 24 by 2018. The employers are targeting youth who face systemic barriers to jobs and education and will offer apprenticeships, internships, training program and both part-time and full-time jobs. The founding companies include Alaska Airlines, Cintas, CVS Health, Hilton Worldwide, HMSHost, JCPenney, JPMorgan Chase, Lyft, Macy’s, Microsoft, Porch.com, Potbelly Sandwich Shop, Starbucks, Taco Bell, Target, Walgreens and Walmart.

“**Updates**” is produced by Catherine Saillant in EWDD’s communications department. If you have questions, comments or wish to contribute to an upcoming “**Updates,**” please contact Saillant at 213-744-9048 or at Catherine.Saillant@lacity.org.