

## **CITY OF LOS ANGELES LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA'S ENGAGEMENT IN REGIONAL PLANNING**

Section 106 (a) (2) (B) – (C) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDA) to engage in regional workforce development efforts.

To comply with this mandate, the state has assigned LWDAs in California to regional planning areas, based on similar economic and labor force characteristics, to produce and implement regional workforce development plans with cooperative service delivery strategies and arrangements.

The seven LWDAs in Los Angeles County (Burbank/ Glendale/Verdugo/ La Canada-Flintridge, City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, Foothill/Pasadena, Long Beach/Pacific Gateway Workforce Services Network, South Bay, and Southeast Los Angeles County) constitute one region for regional workforce development planning and implementation purposes.

Under the official title, Los Angeles Basin Regional Planning Unit (LABRPU), the seven LWDAs have been able to: collectively communicate about workforce development issues and best practices; coordinate outreach to businesses/employers; identify growing industry sectors with employment opportunities that pay living wages; align training and employment investments with employment opportunities in those growing industry sectors; reach consensus on special populations (e.g., ex-offenders, English language learners, housing insecure individuals, low-income persons, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipients, etc.) that should be prioritized for receipt of workforce development services; secure a waiver from the U.S. Department of Labor of WIOA Section 129 (a) (4) (A) in order to increase enrollments of foster care, justice-involved, and homeless youth in WIOA youth programs; pursue additional funding from various sources to provide expanded job training and supportive services to needy job seekers; and respond to disruptive economic and labor market events (i.e., plant closures, mass layoffs, the COVID-19 pandemic, etc.).

The City of Los Angeles LWDA was a willing contributor to all of the above successes of the LABRPU and has been involved with its neighboring LWDAs in the California Workforce Development Board's Regional Planning Initiatives (1.0 through 4.0), and Prison to Employment (1.0 and 2.0) and Region Equity and Recovery Partnership grants. Moreover, the City of Los Angeles LWDA was a party to the LABRPU's formulation of the original 21-24 Regional Plan and recent modifications thereto, pursuant to the California Employment Development Department's Workforce Services Directives (WSD) 20-05 and 22-05.

But the City of Los Angeles LWDA's regional collaborations are not solely limited to its participation in the LABRPU.

A workforce development ecosystem has been created by the City of Los Angeles LWDA of interdependent actors (e.g., educational institutions, community-based organizations, employers, LWDAs, etc.) that pool funding, leverage assets and infrastructure, share and integrate staff, and divvy up tasks with the goals of supporting the talent needs of

businesses/employers and facilitating the labor market success of workers. The following are a few examples of those partnership arrangements:

- The City of Los Angeles LWDA contracts with a non-profit community-based organization to operate a full-service America's Job Center of California in Culver City, an adjacent municipality.

The County of Los Angeles LWDA provides funding to the City of Los Angeles LWDA for operation of this facility.

It serves both City of Los Angeles LWDA and County of Los Angeles LWDA residents.

- The City of Los Angeles LWDA contracts with a non-profit community-based organization to operate a full-service America's Job Center of California in the San Fernando Valley that is adjacent to unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles LWDA.

The County of Los Angeles LWDA provides funding to the City of Los Angeles LWDA for operation of this facility.

It serves both City of Los Angeles LWDA and County of Los Angeles LWDA residents.

- The City of Los Angeles LWDA funds a full-service America's Job Center of California that borders the City of Long Beach and contracts with the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network/Long Beach LWDA to operate this facility.

It serves City of Los Angeles LWDA residents.

- The City of Los Angeles LWDA and County of Los Angeles LWDA jointly fund a business services and layoff aversion initiative led by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC).

- The City of Los Angeles LWDA and County of Los Angeles LWDA jointly fund LAEDC to collect, compile and publish labor market information.

- The City of Los Angeles LWDA and other LWDAs in Los Angeles County collectively fund the South Bay LWDA to maintain the region's Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL).

- The City of Los Angeles LWDA operates a workforce development system for youth that consists of 14 YouthSource Centers.

As part of its school dropout recovery efforts, the City of Los Angeles LWDA funds the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to deploy Pupil Services Counselors in YouthSource Centers.

LAUSD Pupil Services Counselors work side-by-side with staff at YouthSource Centers to achieve WIOA youth performance goals.

- The City of Los Angeles LWDA funds the LAUSD Adult Education Division to coordinate with its America's Job Centers of California and YouthSource Centers in addressing local skills gaps (the fundamental mismatch between the skills job candidates possess and the skills they need to successfully perform in the workplace).

LAUSD Adult Education Division personnel work side-by-side with staff at America's Job Centers of California and YouthSource Centers in developing education and employment plans for individuals with skills deficiencies and prioritizing them for receipt of workforce development services.

- The City of Los Angeles LWDA has a number of full-service America's Job Centers of California operating on the grounds of Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) campuses to provide job seekers with easy access to education and training opportunities there.
- The County of Los Angeles LWDA provides funding to the City of Los Angeles LWDA to underwrite summer and year-round work experience opportunities for disadvantaged youth; a significant number of which are co-enrolled in WIOA youth activities.