



## News for the Week of JANUARY 6, 2020

### **LA:RISE –HELPING INDIVIDUALS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS FIND FULL-TIME WORK**

EWDD is a leadership team partner of the Los Angeles Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise (LA:RISE), an innovative, collaborative partnership that unites the City and County of Los Angeles' Workforce Development System (WDS) with non-profit social enterprises and for profit employers to help men and women with high barriers to employment get good jobs and stay employed. The City's WorkSource Centers and LA:RISE prioritize individuals recently released from prison, the unsheltered or those at risk of homelessness, and youth ages 18-24 who are neither in school or working. After working in a transitional job at a social enterprise and leveraging training and services from the WorkSource Center, LA:RISE participants are placed at jobs in the private sector or in vocational training programs. The following two stories illustrate the success of the LA:RISE program, made possible through the efforts of EWDD, our partner agencies, and the LA:RISE clients.

### **LA:RISE PARTICIPANT RECEIVES TRAINING, LEADING TO FULL-TIME POSITION**



The Hollywood WorkSource Center connected participant Brená (left) with the LA:RISE program, where she received job training that led to a full-time position at the YWCA Greater Los Angeles Digital Print Center. Brená moved to Los Angeles with her family in search of an opportunity to build a better future. A year later, she was still searching for a full-time job and was at-risk of homelessness. Brená enrolled at the Hollywood WSC to receive assistance in her job search. The Hollywood WSC referred Brená, through the LA:RISE program, to the YWCA's Digital Print Center, a non-profit social enterprise that provides workforce training at its commercial print shop. In her role as a customer service administrative assistant, Brená developed job skills such as maintaining customer files and helping the team generate new

customers. She excelled throughout her job training and was offered a full-time job in the print vendor's executive office. Brená said she is excited to continue building new work skills and is proud that she is now able to support her family.

## FORMERLY HOMELESS, LA:RISE PARTICIPANT NOW HAS FULL-TIME RETAIL JOB

LA:RISE participant Stephanie (right) received job training at the Downtown Women's Center (DWC) where she developed skills that led to a full-time job as a retail assistant. When Stephanie enrolled in the LA:RISE program at the DWC, she was experiencing homelessness and discouraged from a long job search that had not produced any full-time opportunities. After learning about the paid job training opportunities at DWC, she eagerly enrolled and was excited to begin working and developing new skills. Over the course of her LA:RISE training, Stephanie gained confidence in herself, along with job skills in retail operations and leadership experience. Stephanie now works at MADE by DWC, the organization's social enterprise. She said she enjoys the responsibility of working on a team and the opportunity to be creative while developing MADE by DWC's line of gift products, which include candles and soaps. Now, Stephanie said she is excited about her future and hopes to become an entrepreneur so that she can create employment opportunities for those who are striving to overcome the same barriers she has faced.



## FIRST EWDD MICRO LOAN RECIPIENT OPENS SUSHI BELUGA RESTAURANT



East Los Angeles BusinessSource Center (BSC) client, Cun Sang Chi (left), the first recipient of the City's Micro Loan program, recently celebrated the grand opening of his restaurant Sushi Beluga in Playa Del Rey. The East Los Angeles BSC provided Mr. Chi with extensive business consulting services, including purchasing the restaurant from the previous owner, lease negotiations and assistance obtaining the required licenses and permits with the City of Los Angeles and LA County's Public Health Department. The East LA BSC also assisted him with business plan development and financial planning goals. EWDD Updates first profiled Mr. Chi in [April 2019](#), as he was the first person to receive a loan from the City's newly established Micro Loan Program. He was approved for a \$50,000 loan.

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Sushi Beluga opened its doors in December 2019 with six full-time employees. Mr. Chi plans to hire an additional three full-time employees as the business grows. The City of Los Angeles Microloan Program provides financing needed to viable microenterprises (one to five employees) and small businesses (more than five employees) that private financial institutions or community lenders cannot finance.

**BUSINESS METRICS:**

<b>LABSCs Reporting:</b>	North Valley, West Valley, South Valley, South LA, East LA, Mid City, Central West, Hollywood and Harbor
Microenterprise enrolled	4
Microenterprise assisted	46
Small businesses enrolled	1
Small businesses assisted	13
Number of BSC clients who attended workshops	0

**WORKFORCE METRICS:**

*(arrows indicate monthly trend)\**

**CalJobs** *(online and mobile)*



2,071 Registrations  
18% ↓

**WorkSource Centers**



3,408 Enrollments  
29% ↓

*\*Please note, these decreases may be related to an 8.8% drop in unemployment within the City of Los Angeles (7,700 less in November than in October) and 1.1% increase in employed individuals (21,900 more in November). Also one WorkSource Center was abruptly closed for much of November 2019.*

"Updates" is the weekly report from the EWDD Acting Interim 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](mailto:Jamie.Francisco@lacity.org)

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