



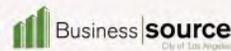
**Economic & Workforce
Development Department (EWDD) Weekly Updates**
NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 25, 2021

Success Stories



**\$5,000 GRANTS FOR 5,000 BUSINESSES
IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

COMEBACK CHECKS PROGRAM



Round 1 applications are open until 11/2/21!
To apply, visit: ComebackChecksLA.com

Round 1 applications due November 2, 2021

APPLICATIONS POUR IN FOR \$25M COMEBACK CHECKS PROGRAM

Within an hour of its launch, EWDD received 900 applications for Round 1 of the City of LA's \$25M "Comeback Checks" grant program, which will provide \$5,000 grants to 5,000 small businesses in need of COVID-19 financial recovery assistance. Applications are due November 2, 2021. Microbusinesses, small and medium businesses are eligible to apply. Funding will be distributed over several rounds. Applicants that are not selected as finalists at the end of round one will not need to reapply. Eligible businesses will automatically be

enrolled in rounds two and three. Businesses must be located and operate within the boundaries of the City of Los Angeles. Grant funds may only be used for allowable costs incurred on or after March 3, 2021.

Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the program's launch at a press conference held Tuesday October 26. EWDD General Manager Carolyn Hull was invited to provide remarks. "The Comeback Checks grant program provides a much-needed boost for the City's mom-and-pop shops, local restaurants, and small businesses to rebound. Angelenos are resilient, and these grants offer our small businesses financial support to fortify and propel their journey toward economic recovery," she said. Fred Jackson, EWDD's Assistant General Manager for Economic Development, was also in attendance.

EWDD's BusinessSource Centers are offering free webinars through November 1, 2021 to guide prospective applicants through the process. The webinars will be provided in English, Spanish, Mandarin and Korean. To register, along with more information about the grant program including a full list of eligibility criteria and required documentation, visit <http://comebackchecksla.com/>.



EAST LA BSC HELPS TACO SHOP KEEP SERVING FAVORITES

The East LA [BusinessSource Center \(BSC\)](#) helped long-time clients Arturo and Leonardo Aguilar secure COVID-19 financial recovery assistance that allowed their business to survive the pandemic and explore expansion opportunities. In 2015, the brothers established [Street Tacos and Grill](#), located in Boyle Heights next to Mariachi Plaza. While the owners are partial to their al-pastor tacos, the asada food items are a client favorite, along with the shop's refreshing Kale Aqua Fresca.

For the past six years, the business experienced steady and normal growth, but faced reduced revenues due to the pandemic. The pair of siblings worked diligently to keep their business alive and maintain their employees. The East

LA BSC assisted their long-term clients in successfully obtaining grants from the Boyle Heights Chamber of Commerce and the California Relief Grant. These funds, along with ongoing guidance from the BSC, will allow the brothers to expand their current operation and open additional locations.

Street Tacos and Grill is located in LA [City Council District 1](#).



WSC HELPS VETERAN SWITCH CAREERS DURING COVID-19

Rex is a military service veteran who first came to the Sun Valley, Southeast Valley [WorkSource Center \(WSC\)](#) on April 28th, 2021. Formerly a licensed massage therapist, his vocation was greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As COVID-19 restrictions eased, Rex (pictured above) was unsure what was in store for him, but he knew that his employment future would undoubtedly change. To that end, he worked with a WSC counselor to receive career and business assistance.

After thorough discussions in consideration of employment trends and available educational and training programs, Rex decided to pursue training at the [Manufacturing Academy program at Los Angeles Valley College \(LAVC\)](#).

With funding assistance from the WSC, he started the program in July and received his CNC Machinist Operator certification on August 30th. The training program included on-site visits with manufacturing employer partners, giving graduates direct employer contact.

Rex interviewed and received an offer letter from [Technical Manufacturing West \(TMW\)](#), On September 7, he started his full-time employment in the position of Manufacturing Inspector. He said that he is doing great and let the WSC team know that he is more than satisfied with his new career path.

LINKS to COVID-19 RESOURCES

JOB RESOURCES

LA JOBS PORTAL: jobs.lajobsportal.org

VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS: bit.ly/LAjoblosshelp

BUSINESS RESOURCES

LA REGIONAL COVID FUND: lacovidfund.org

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM: ewddlacity.com/index.php/small-business-loans

LA CARES Corps: coronavirus.lacity.org/CARESCorps

BusinessSource Centers: bit.ly/LABusinessSource

WorkSource Centers: bit.ly/EWDDWorkSource

YouthSource Centers: bit.ly/EWDDYouthSource

EWDD Metrics

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

WORKSOURCE CENTER CONTACT PERFORMANCE (COVID-19) October 18, 2021 to October 22, 2021	
Number of walk-ins	1,404
Number of walk-ins by appointment	611
Number of call/emails	2,677
Number of calls regarding Unemployment Insurance (UI)	315

YOUTH WORKFORCE DATA FY 20-21 (HIRE LA'S YOUTH) Week ending October 22, 2021	
Number of applications	5,647
Number of youth in lottery pool	1,387
Number of youth enrolled	2,122
YouthSource Center (YSC) enrollments	551
YSC enrollment goal	2,100
Percent complete	26.2%

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

LOS ANGELES BUSINESSSOURCE CENTERS (LABSCs) METRICS October 18, 2021 to October 22, 2021

LABSCs Reporting: North Valley, West Valley, South Valley, South LA, East LA, Mid City, Central West, Hollywood and Harbor

Microenterprises assisted	145
Microenterprises enrolled	20
Small businesses assisted	60
Small businesses enrolled	7
Number of BSC Clients who attended virtual workshops	203
Sidewalk vendors assisted	55
Sidewalk vendors enrolled	9



The Economic & Workforce Development Department is headquartered in the Garland Building located at 7th street and Garland Ave in downtown Los Angeles.

1200 West 7th Street
Los Angeles CA 90017

213-744-7300
711 for TRS (TTY)

If TTY/TTD is needed to contact us, please use 711 for Telecommunication Relay Services (TRS)

If you have any questions, comments, or wish to have a contribution considered for inclusion in an upcoming "Updates," please feel free to contact Jamie Francisco at (213) 744-9048 or Jamie.Francisco@lacity.org.