



**Economic & Workforce
Development Department (EWDD) Weekly Updates**
NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 1, 2021

Success Stories



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

COMEBACK CHECKS PROGRAM



18,000 SMALL BUSINESSES APPLY FOR COMEBACK CHECKS GRANTS

EWDD received 18,000 applications for Round 1 of the City's \$25M [Comeback Checks](#) program, which will provide \$5,000 grants to local mom-and-pop shops, restaurants and other small businesses in need of COVID-19 financial recovery assistance. [EWDD](#)'s team has been working diligently to process applications since the Round 1 application period closed at 11:59pm Tuesday, November 2, 2021. The Comeback Checks program will distribute grants over three rounds. Launch dates for Rounds 2 and 3 are to be determined. Finalists will be notified within 10 business days. Eligible businesses that applied for Round 1 and are not selected as finalists will automatically be enrolled in Rounds 2 and 3.

During the application period, EWDD's [BusinessSource Centers](#) offered

extended hours to assist small businesses with questions. Calls flooded the centers in the evening hours, from 6pm to 8pm. The centers also provided several free webinars in English, Spanish, Mandarin and Korean to lead small businesses step by step through the application process.

To be eligible for the program, microbusinesses, small and medium businesses are required to be located and operated 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.

For more information about Round 2, along with a full list of eligibility criteria and required documentation, visit <http://comebackchecksla.com/>.



BOYLE HEIGHTS YSC HELPS YOUTH EXPLORE ENTERTAINMENT JOBS

The Boyle Heights Technology [YouthSource Center](#) (BHTYC) held an Open House on Saturday October 23, 2021. BHTYC's partners [Helping The Next Developers and Producers](#) (HNDP), [Five Keys](#), and [Parents, Educators/Teachers & Students in Action](#) (PESA) were in attendance at the outdoor event. HNDP, a nonprofit that mentors LA youth towards career paths in the entertainment industry, hosted the event.

HNDP alumni, Oscar "Taco," spoke and performed his music at the event. Oscar emphasized that prior to joining the HNDP program, he was having a difficult time finding an outlet or avenues to perform his music live. However, after joining the program four years ago, he has been given multiple opportunities to "meet industry professionals, play live, and overall just have a safe space to speak about my struggles and also get to work with the business side of music." Nonprofits [Five Keys](#) and [PESA](#), were at their own booths distributing flyers with information about education and the workforce resources for youth.

Five Keys' and PESA's focus is to increase academic success as well as assist youth with career exploration.



RETURNING CITIZEN UNLOCKS CODE TO LAUNCH TECH BUSINESS

[RebootLA Tech Incubator](#) is a partnership between EWDD and [Sabio](#) coding bootcamp, which provides returning citizens free technical and entrepreneurship services.

RebootLA participant Seth Sundberg (pictured above) spent five years inside federal prison, and he recalls his transition to society as terrible. He said that being incarcerated messed him up physically and mentally because when he was inside, he dealt with very extreme circumstances, and what he learned to survive is not useful elsewhere.

Seth shares that when he was released from prison, he found that even the most mundane things were difficult. He had to relearn how to buy things, how to smile and say hello to people, and to use a new phone after five years of technological advances had gone by. Transitioning as a returning citizen was difficult for Seth, but he was able to do so with the support of reentry organizations.

Seth came to RebootLA after hearing about us from [Defy Ventures](#), an reentry organization where he was part of as an Entrepreneur in Training program. Defy Ventures helped Seth further develop a nutritional protein bar called Inside Out Goodness that he started in prison to supplement prison food. This same entrepreneurial spirit led Seth to RebootLA in hopes of starting his own tech consultancy.

When Seth joined RebootLA, he did not know how to write a single line of code but he understood the importance of code to tech and the growing demand for developers in the job-market. Seth's training was strenuous but he was able to graduate as a Full Stack Web Developer and launch his consulting business, [Reach New Heights](#).

Seth hopes to expand his business in the real estate industry where he sees a lot of opportunity to upgrade poor websites to today's tech standards. Seth shares that he would also hire people who were formerly incarcerated because their resilience is an invaluable quality. Returning citizens are able to understand the framework of how people think, are genuine, and are resourceful with their environment. He recently worked with fellow RebootLA participant [Martha Ayon, who was featured in the July 26, 2021 issue of EWDD Updates](#). Together, they launched a website for the nonprofit [Open Access](#), which helps Latinx and Black Community Development professionals accelerate in their professional careers.

RebootLA is located in LA City [Council District 14](#).

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 25, 2021 to October 29, 2021

Number of walk-ins	1,492
Number of walk-ins by appointment	636
Number of call/emails	2,923
Number of calls regarding Unemployment Insurance (UI)	402

YOUTH WORKFORCE DATA FY 20-21 (HIRE LA'S YOUTH) Week ending October 29, 2021

Number of applications	5,777
Number of youth in lottery pool	1,415
Number of youth enrolled	2,227
YouthSource Center (YSC) enrollments	575
YSC enrollment goal	2,100
Percent complete	27.4%

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

LOS ANGELES BUSINESSSOURCE CENTERS (LABSCs) METRICS October 25, 2021 to October 29, 2021

LABSCs Reporting:	North Valley, West Valley, South Valley, South LA, East LA, Mid City, Central West, Hollywood and Harbor
Microenterprises assisted	329
Microenterprises enrolled	4
Small businesses assisted	102
Small businesses enrolled	1
Number of BSC Clients who attended virtual workshops	573
Sidewalk vendors assisted	54
Sidewalk vendors enrolled	5



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.