



**Economic & Workforce
Development Department (EWDD) Weekly Updates**
NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 27, 2021

Success Stories



CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMEBACK CHECKS PROGRAM

More than 20,000 small businesses applied for the City of Los Angeles \$25M Comeback Checks Program, which will provide \$5,000 grants to assist 5,000 recipients in their economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. The program features three rounds of applications. The Round 3 application period is anticipated to begin in January 2022.

The EWDD team is working diligently to process applications. Finalists will be notified 10 business days after the close of each round. Eligible businesses that submitted applications and were not selected for funding in Rounds 1 and 2 do not need to reapply, as they were automatically included in future rounds of program funding. In response to an overwhelming number of inquiries, please note that the following

businesses are ineligible for the Comeback Checks Program: Non-profit organizations; Landlords/Schedule E Passive Income; Parent Company Ownership; Ride-share companies; Businesses or companies held in trust; and Businesses that do not have a physical location. For more information about the program and eligibility requirements, visit: <http://ComebackChecksLA.com>. This week's EWDD Updates features stories about two sidewalk vendors who received grants through the Comeback Checks Program.



HARBOR-WATTS BSC HELPS SIDEWALK VENDOR WIN \$5K GRANT

Alberto Paxtor is a sidewalk vendor in the South Los Angeles area who sells clothing, used items and facemasks. Alberto (above, left) suffered heavy financial losses to his business and livelihood due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this difficult time, the Harbor-Watts [BusinessSource Center \(BSC\)](#) built a relationship with Alberto to support his business and provide access to capital. In 2020, staff assisted Alberto with a successful application for the COVID-19 Sidewalk Vending Grant. The \$5,000 grant allowed him to sustain his business.

In November 2021, after learning about the [Comeback Checks Program](#) through the Harbor-Watts BSC, Alberto began working with staff to apply for this much needed assistance. Staff scheduled after-hour meetings to accommodate Alberto's work schedule. Alberto actively communicated with the Harbor-Watts BSC throughout the application process. He attended a Comeback Checks Program webinar, informed staff when he needed technical assistance and he was receptive to follow-ups. Staff assisted Alberto in submitting the required documentation for the Comeback Checks Program. On December 15, 2021 Alberto informed staff that he received funding! He said he is extremely thankful for the help the Harbor-Watts BSC provided him and his family.

Alberto has the heart of an entrepreneur and is determined to overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Alberto plans to use the grant to recoup the losses in sales caused by COVID-19 by utilizing the funds toward pandemic-related costs. Alberto wants to continue to grow his business past the economic hardships created by the pandemic and envisions eventually transitioning to a commercial brick and mortar store.



HOLLYWOOD BSC HELPS VENDOR SECURE GRANTS TO STAY OPEN

Graciela Renderos, a longtime sidewalk vendor from the East Hollywood area, was awarded a \$5,000 grant through the [City of Los Angeles Comeback Checks Program](#) in December 2021.

Graciela (above) began her journey with the Hollywood [BusinessSource Center \(BSC\)](#) in 2020. Looking to obtain her sidewalk vending permit, she spoke to a business consultant to learn more about the permitting process. The business consultant also rendered technical assistance services, such as information about business structures, understanding the legal responsibilities of permits and licenses, sidewalk vending rules and regulations, and the value of business taxes. With direction from the business consultant, Graciela secured her sidewalk vending permit. In addition, Graciela received support through the City of Los Angeles Sidewalk Vending grant that resulted in an award for \$5,000.

The Hollywood BSC continued to provide Graciela with support. In October 2021, she met with a business consultant for help in applying for the City of Los Angeles Comeback Checks Program. Chosen as a grantee through a weighted lottery process, Graciela advanced to the next phase. With the help of the business consultant, Graciela submitted her required documents on time and

she received a \$5,000 grant, which will help her cover costs related to the pandemic.

Graciela looks forward to building a better future for her business. She said that she is grateful for the City of LA grant programs that helped sustain her business during COVID-19 and will now steer it toward economic recovery.

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

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) December 20, 2021 to December 24, 2021

Number of walk-ins	488
Number of walk-ins by appointment	224
Number of call/emails	1,194
Number of calls regarding Unemployment Insurance (UI)	187

YOUTH WORKFORCE DATA FY 20-21 (HIRE LA'S YOUTH) Week ending December 24, 2021

Number of applications	6,671
Number of youth in lottery pool	1,427
Number of youth enrolled	2,796
YouthSource Center (YSC) enrollments	938
YSC enrollment goal	2,100
Percent complete	45%

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

LOS ANGELES BUSINESSSOURCE CENTERS (LABSCs) METRICS December 20, 2021 to December 24, 2021

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

Microenterprises assisted	64
Microenterprises enrolled	7
Small businesses assisted	28
Small businesses enrolled	4
Number of BSC Clients who attended virtual workshops	92
Sidewalk vendors assisted	28
Sidewalk vendors enrolled	7



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
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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