



Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD) Weekly Updates

NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Success Stories



EWDD helping small businesses pivot and thrive during COVID-19
MID-CITY BSC HELPS RESTAURATEUR STAY OPEN, SAVE JOBS

The Mid-City BusinessSource Center helped Mr. Ara Tien (above), owner of Chop Chop Chicken, successfully obtain COVID-19 disaster loans that allowed him to keep his business open and retain 18 employees. In 2018, Mr. Tien, who has more than 30 years of experience in the food industry, opened the first Chop Chop Chicken location in Monterey Park. The mediterranean fusion restaurant proved quite successful, and as business was booming, he opened his second location next to USC. Then the COVID-19 pandemic happened and with the Safer at Home Order in place, all restaurants were forced to shutter indoor dining. Mr. Tien knew he needed help if his business was to survive. In March 2020, Mr. Tien researched and found the BusinessSource Center (BSC), Mid-City office, operated by PACE Business Development Center. He connected and worked with Loan Officer Jennifer Whelan and her manager Wai-ling Chin, who reviewed his business plan and analyzed his financial statements. Throughout the rest of 2020, BSC staff helped Mr. Tien apply for and secure a \$20,000 City of LA EWDD Emergency Loan and a larger PACE Disaster Loan. With this injection of capital, Mr. Tien was able to keep both stores operational. He pivoted from indoor dining and provided pick-up orders and partnered with Uber Eats, Door Dash and Grubhub for delivery services. With the help of the Mid-City BusinessSource Center, coupled with Mr. Tien's hard work, Chop Chop Chicken was able to retain all 18 employees at both locations. The Chop Chop Chicken location near USC is located in LA City Council District 9.



WorkSource Centers facilitate jobs during COVID-19

LA COMMUNITY CARE CORP PROGRAM HELPS UNEMPLOYED

Approximately 641 individuals who lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic were connected with job opportunities related to COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts through the Los Angeles Community Care Corp (LACCC) program. In partnership with the Mayor's Office, Council District Offices and

Community Build, Inc., EWDD's 16 WorkSource Centers expedited implementation of the program in 30 days in order to expend funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act before it expired December 30, 2020. Participants were offered jobs that paid \$22 per hour up to 200 paid hours, providing much-needed financial assistance during the holiday season. They worked in transitional employment roles supporting COVID-19 emergency response and humanitarian efforts. In addition, the LACCC Clean Streets partnership with the City's Office of Beautification and the LA Conservation Corps funded opportunities for participants to join work crews responsible for cleaning streets and medians throughout the City. Crews performed beautification efforts in East LA, Northeast San Fernando Valley and South LA. Crews cleared numerous alleys and street corners strewn with discarded furniture, trash and other items. Crews also provided landscaping services, trimming overgrown trees and grass medians. In addition to the individuals who were hired for temporary jobs, an additional 90 people were connected through the LACCC program to workforce development and training opportunities at the City's WorkSource Centers. The LACCC program provided much-needed financial assistance during the holiday season for individuals already hurting from the devastating economic impacts of COVID-19. Bianca Bradford, a former bus driver, was laid off due to the pandemic, lost her home and was homeless. She said the LACCC program was a blessing that came right on time as it provided her with a job that allowed her to care for her family and save for a new apartment. In this week's EWDD Updates, we feature before and after photos from South LA clean-up sites, where crews hauled away more than 3,000 bags of trash. The locations in this week's EWDD Updates are located in LA City Council Districts 8, 9 and 15. In the next few weeks, EWDD will feature photos from clean-up sites in Boyle Heights and Pacoima. Stay tuned!



Before



10345 S. Central, South LA (Watts), CD8

After



Before



453 E. 32nd Place, South LA, CD9

After



Before



2311 S. Main, South LA, CD9

After



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) January 25, 2021 to January 29, 2021	
Number of walk-ins	924
Number of walk-ins by appointment	681
Number of call/emails	2,753
Number of calls regarding Unemployment Insurance (UI)	616

YOUTH WORKFORCE DATA FY 20-21 (HIRE LA'S YOUTH) Week ending January 29, 2021	
Number of applications	9,274
Number of youth in lottery pool	1,052
Number of youth enrolled	2,489
YouthSource Center (YSC) enrollments	964
YSC enrollment goal	2,100
Percent complete	45.9%

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

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

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

Microenterprise assisted	120
Microenterprise enrolled	6
Small businesses assisted	59
Small businesses enrolled	0
Number of BSC Clients who attended virtual workshops	198
Sidewalk vendors assisted	23
Sidewalk vendors enrolled	0



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.