



Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD) Weekly Updates

NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

Funds for the City of Los Angeles Small Business Emergency Microloan were exhausted last month, six months after its inception. Approximately \$8.8M in loans has been distributed to 662 businesses as of September 29, 2020. The application portal was officially closed on September 16 and EWDD's Economic Development Division is in the midst of processing the last of the applications. Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the program in March 2020 to provide relief to small businesses experiencing the devastating economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. EWDD has received dozens of testimonials from entrepreneurs and local mom-and-pop shops, who said that the program provided much needed assistance to help them stay afloat and keep their staff on payroll. Additional funding resources are still available for small businesses impacted by COVID-19, including the LA Regional COVID Fund and the City's Small Business Loan Program. Below are testimonials from several businesses that obtained the loan.

"We thank you so much for supporting our business. We so deeply appreciate it. We got better coverage now too at a better rate! Thank you thank you!"

– Mixxes

"I truly appreciate your help and this loan. These are challenging times and this assistance will help my business tremendously."

– Mom in the Mail

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

Success Stories



Helping Small Businesses Survive COVID-19

HARBOR-WATTS BSC HELPS THE SARDINE STAY AFLOAT

The Harbor-Watts BusinessSource Center (BSC) helped Mr. Isaac Thotz (above), the co-owner of mixed music venue The Sardine in San Pedro, obtain COVID-19 relief loans that allowed his nascent business to keep eight employees and shift to an online business model. Mr. Thotz contacted the

Harbor-Watts BusinessSource Center (BSC) in March 2020 looking for assistance with COVID-19 relief options. The Sardine opened in December 2019 after three years of hosting donation-based shows in a warehouse on Centre Street. Mr. Thotz's partner Todd Congellere has run a San Pedro based record label for over 30 years. Together, they opened The Sardine to showcase new and existing local artists. Mr. Thotz was concerned about the company's eligibility to receive relief because the business' tax returns showed a loss due to renovations and other start-up costs. A business consultant with the Harbor-Watts BSC helped Mr. Thotz secure a City of Los Angeles Small Business Microloan and an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) even though the company had only been in business for three months before the shutdown. With the Harbor-Watts BSC's assistance, The Sardine was able to keep its eight employees on payroll. In addition to the relief funds, The Sardine has been able to switch to a business mode of online sales and distribution of branded merchandise and direct to consumer sales of music records.



Helping Small Businesses Survive COVID-19

MID-CITY BSC HELPS OHANA BBQ RESTAURANT SAVE 6 JOBS

The Mid-City BusinessSource Center (BSC) recently helped Mr. Young Yoo, owner of Korean-Hawaiian restaurant , acquire \$224,000 through various disaster loan programs which allowed him to keep six of his employees on payroll. Mr. Yoo (above) emigrated from Korea to the United States in 1980. In 2005, he purchased the Korean-Hawaiian restaurant Ohana BBQ, based in Studio City. During the peak of the pandemic in March and April 2020, Ohana BBQ's revenue dropped dramatically. In March 2020, he was referred by the Southern California Korean Restaurant Association Group to the Mid-City BusinessSource Center. At the center, he was able to receive one-on-one business counseling in Korean, his native language. The business counselor provided Mr. Yoo in-depth technical assistance by helping Mr. Young develop

his business project budget, financial statement, and translating any relevant emails to Korea throughout the application process. The counselor discussed the different types of available COVID-19 disaster loan programs, explained loan application procedures and usages, and guided him in preparing all required loan documents. The counselor also advised him how to meet new business and safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and OSHA in order to reopen. With the business counselor's guidance, Mr. Yoo successfully obtained three loans totaling \$224,000 from the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), and from the City of Los Angeles Small Business Emergency Microloan. With the loans, Mr. Yoo has the working capital to cover expenses and keep his business running, including rent, utilities, and payroll to retain six employees. Ohana BBQ is currently offering outdoor seating, delivery, and take-out options.

EWDD Metrics

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND PUA CLAIMS FILED (COVID-19) IN CITY OF LOS ANGELES, Week of 9/12/2020

Number of new Unemployment Insurance Claims filed in City of Los Angeles	48,562
Number of new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims	37,699

WORKSOURCE CENTER CONTACT PERFORMANCE (COVID-19) September 21, 2020 to September 25, 2020

Number of walk-ins	1,115
Number of walk-ins by appointment	719
Number of call/emails	2,830
Number of calls regarding Unemployment Insurance (UI)	801

YOUTH WORKFORCE DATA FY 20-21 (HIRE LA'S YOUTH)

Week ending September 25, 2020

Number of applications	6,919
Number of youth in lottery pool	1,206
Number of youth enrolled	1,410
Percentage of youth enrolled	14.91%
YouthSource Center (YSC) enrollments	368
YSC enrollment goal	2,100
Percent complete	17.52%

LOS ANGELES BUSINESSSOURCE CENTERS (LABSCs) METRICS September 21, 2020 to September 25, 2020

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

Microenterprise assisted	123
Microenterprise enrolled	12
Small businesses assisted*	44
Small businesses enrolled	4
Number of BSC Clients who attended virtual workshops	110
Sidewalk vendors assisted	18
Sidewalk vendors enrolled	8

*Compared to a pre COVID-19 weekly average number of 23



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