

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 28, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Virtual/Microsoft Teams Meeting

Call-in number: 1-323-776-6996 Access Code: 831 836 193#

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Sole Source Contract Extensions with Existing America's Job Center of California Providers (WDACS) 15 minutes
3. Evaluation of the Los Angeles County America's Job Centers of California Report (Social Policy Research Associates) 45 minutes
4. Public Comment

NOTE:

Please send comments to EconomicDevelopment@ceo.lacounty.gov by Wednesday October 27th at noon. They will be shared with the Committee prior to the meeting.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Hilda L. Solis
Holly J. Mitchell
Sheila Kuehl
Janice Hahn

October 28, 2021

Kathryn Barger

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Otto Solórzano
Acting Director

Paul Goldman
Contract & Administrative Services

FROM: Otto Solórzano, Acting Director

Jose R. Perez
Workforce Development

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTICE OF INTENT TO EXECUTE SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS WITH AMERICA’S JOB CENTERS OF CALIFORNIA PROVIDERS**

Lorenza C. Sánchez
Aging & Adult Services

Robin S. Toma
Human Relations

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Los Angeles, CA 90020
info@wdacs.lacounty.gov
URL: wdacs.lacounty.gov

Los Angeles County (County) Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) intends to enter into sole source contracts with existing America’s Job Centers of California (AJCCs) operators (Attachment A) to continue providing workforce development program services to County constituents. Current contracts expire on June 30, 2022, and the term of the new contracts will be July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

Aging & Adult Information &

Assistance Line:
(800) 510-2020

Report Elder Abuse:
(877) 477-3646

Report Hate: 211

America’s Job Centers:
(888) 226-6300

Community & Senior Centers:
(323) 260-2003

JUSTIFICATION

WDACS seeks to execute these contracts to extend the current AJCC system, given the challenge of completing a robust competitive procurement during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing transition to two (2) new County departments, as well as reviews underway of the current workforce system. During the extension period, WDACS will competitively procure new providers for contracts beginning July 1, 2023.



1. COVID-19 Pandemic

During the pandemic, WDACS implemented \$257 million in FEMA and CARES Act funds, and we are now preparing to implement \$60 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding. In addition, we transitioned our AJCCs to virtual and appointment-only services. We recently began a phased reopening of our AJCCs and are now providing in-person services at reduced capacity. In the coming months, as conditions allow, we plan to gradually increase capacity. Given these ongoing pandemic response and recovery efforts, WDACS believes releasing a complex solicitation that requires a substantial investment in time and resources would pose an unnecessary strain on the department and interested agencies seeking to apply.

2. Transition to New Departments

During Fiscal Year (FY) 21-22 WDACS is transitioning to two (2) new departments, one focused on economic and workforce development, as well as one focused on older adults and adults with disabilities. This transition involves complex efforts to realign and restructure economic and workforce development programs, including those being transitioned from other County departments. By FY 22-23, the structure and operations of the new economic and workforce department will be more settled, and it will be in a better position to lead this major procurement effort.

3. Review of Current AJCC System

There are concurrent reviews underway of the AJCC system. The Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board is developing a framework for a system redesign to ensure the AJCCs continue to meet the needs of employers and businesses, given the changing economic and employment landscape. In addition, on September 1, 2020,¹ your Board directed an outside review to analyze the current structure and efficacy of the AJCC system. This review is nearly complete. Conducting the procurement next FY will enable the development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) that incorporates key system changes and enhancements based on these reviews.

BACKGROUND

The AJCC system serves as the federally mandated, all-inclusive access point to employment and training programs aimed at providing demand-driven skills attainment and career pathway

¹ "Leveraging the County's Workforce System to Meet the Post-Covid-19 Labor Market Needs and Prepare for the County's Workforce and Economic Development Department" (Item 68-E). <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/148424.pdf>.

opportunities through high-road training programs, especially for individuals with barriers to employment. The system and its existing service providers have been instrumental in placing thousands of individuals in employment and training programs throughout the County. The services provided through the AJCCs have been especially critical for those who became unemployed during the pandemic and those who needed the support to transition into jobs that pose less risk to their health and safety.

WDACS contracts with eight (8) agencies to operate nineteen (19) AJCCs and Affiliates. These agencies were competitively procured in 2016 through an RFP process. On July 27, 2021, the California Economic Development Department advised WDACS the best option for extending AJCC services is to execute sole source contracts with current AJCC operators. It is in the best interests of the County to approve the sole source contracts with existing AJCCs operators under the provision of public exigency and in compliance with Title 20 Code of Federal Regulations Section 678.610, which details the rules of a sole source under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

CONCLUSION

Given the factors outlined above, WDACS is seeking to extend the procurement and execute sole source contracts with the AJCC operators for an additional year through June 30, 2023. Unless otherwise directed by your Board, WDACS will complete all required steps in the County process for sole source contracts and then submit a board letter to request approval to execute sole source contracts with existing AJCC service providers (Attachment A) for the term July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Our actions will allow the continued provision of workforce development services to County residents and businesses during this critical phase of the pandemic and will allow additional time to prepare for a solicitation for new service providers.

Should you have any questions, you may contact me directly, or your staff may contact Kevin Anderson, Special Assistant, at kanderson@wdacs.lacounty.gov.

OS:PG:CD:MY:JD:ST:ag

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Office
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Supervising Administrator

**Los Angeles County
America's Job Centers of California (AJCC) Service Providers**

| | Agency Name | Service Region |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | AYE Catholic Charities | East LA-West San Gabriel Valley |
| 2 | AYE Catholic Charities | South Los Angeles |
| 3 | City of Los Angeles | Northeast San Fernando Valley |
| 4 | Community Career Development | Rancho Dominguez |
| 5 | Goodwill Industries of Southern CA | East San Gabriel Valley |
| 6 | Goodwill Industries of Southern CA | Santa Clarita |
| 7 | Hub Cities Consortium | Southeast Los Angeles |
| 8 | JVS So-Cal | Antelope Valley |
| 9 | JVS So-Cal | West Los Angeles |
| 10 | JVS So-Cal | Veterans (Countywide) |
| 11 | Managed Career Solutions | Pomona Valley |
| 12 | SASSFA | Rio Hondo |



The Structure and Efficacy of Los Angeles County's America's Job Centers of California (AJCCs)

Findings and Recommendations

Presented to the Chief Executive Office October 28, 2021



Evaluation Questions

- What is the current county AJCC structure?
- How is the current county AJCC structure responding to economic disruption created by COVID- 19 and the need to create high road training partnerships and career pathways for job seekers?
- In what ways could the existing AJCC structure be more responsive in meeting these needs?
- What is the role of existing metrics of success used in LA County in tracking the AJCC system's response to economic disruptions; efforts to align services among AJCC partners; and outreach to priority populations?

Study Objectives

Recommend options to:

- Better integrate GAIN, GROW, CFET, and WIOA programs
- Enhance the delivery of workforce development services that is not limited to the co-location of workforce system partners that is required under the WIOA.
- Build a framework for High Road Training Partnerships and clear strategies that link opportunities for youth ages 14-24.

Evaluation Findings

Findings

I. The nineteen AJCCs overseen by the LACWDB are generally meeting and even exceeding their WIOA-related performance targets

II. AJCCs have been key partners in the County's COVID-19 initiatives to serve job seekers and employers

III. HRTPs are underway in Los Angeles County.

IV. AJCCs struggle with the expectation from system partners that they can be all things to all job seekers.

Recommendations

for Increasing the Responsiveness of the AJCC system

Recommendations

I. Clarify the vision and strategy for aligned economic and workforce development in LA County at the highest levels. Establish clear priorities to send through the economic and workforce development chain

II. Focus on a population or service strategy in-line with the county's broader vision. Build capacity to implement the county's vision by focusing on an aligned strategy.

III. Set AJCCs up to be more successful.

IV. Continue to invest in data infrastructure to support data-driven decision making for the EWDD team and partners.