

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
Thursday, May 14, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Virtual/SKYPE Meeting

Call-in number: 1-323-776-6996 Access Code: 498935018#

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Legislative update (CEO) 10 minutes
3. Business Relief Funds update (LACDA, DCBA, WDACS) 20 minutes
4. Worker Resiliency Fund update (WDACS) 10 minutes
5. Great Plates Delivered Initiative update (WDACS) 5 minutes
6. COVID-19 Portal and Website update (DCBA, CEO) 5 minutes
7. COVID-19 related Board items/report backs (various) 5 minutes
8. Public comment 5 minutes

NOTE:

Please send comments to EconomicDevelopment@ceo.lacounty.gov by Wednesday May 13 at noon. They will be shared with the Committee prior to the meeting.

Worker Resiliency Fund Overview

Purpose of Fund: The LA County Worker Resiliency Fund (Fund) will utilize WIOA Dislocated Worker funds to provide flexible supportive services to vulnerable populations that have been most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- LA County received \$810,000 from the California Employment Development Department (EDD):
 - \$400,000 will be deployed through the AJCCs in partnership with their local trusted community partners
 - \$410,000 will be deployed through a network of trusted Community Based Organization (CBO) partners

WDACS will deploy up to \$800 in supportive services to the most in-need households in LA County, targeting English Language Learners (ELL).

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for the supportive services, individuals must meet the Dislocated Worker and COVID-19 criteria set by EDD:

- Completion of a Title I Dislocated Worker/Adult application in CalJOBS
- Demonstration of how COVID-19 has impacted their ability to earn income
- Proof of address within LA County and proof of being age 18 or older
- Proof of income over the previous 6 months and of any UI benefits

WDACS will target the Worker Resiliency Fund to individuals:

- At or below 50% of Area Median Income (AMI), considered Very Low-Income
 - \$36,550 for single person household in Los Angeles County
- At or below 30% of AMI, considered Extremely Low-Income
 - \$21,950 for single person household in Los Angeles County
- Prioritize households receiving no income since the onset of COVID-19, and no more than 50% of their total prior income.

CBO Referral Network & Intake: We want to ensure that the most underrepresented populations have access to these supportive services funds, including English-Language Learners, Native Americans, and justice-involved individuals. In order to ensure equitable access, WDACS is working with a network of vetted CBOs that are trusted within immigrant communities to refer these individuals to WDACS for supportive services payments. WDACS is leveraging its partnership with the Office of Immigrant Affairs to reach communities throughout the County for referral into the program. The AJCCs in all five Supervisorial Districts will reach out to ELLs through their network of trusted local community organizations.

The CBO referral network will identify and refer 512 individuals for funding, and we will divide referral slots between CBO partners.

- CBOs select clients with greatest need, conduct intake, gather documentation
- WDACS verifies eligibility, inputs into CalJOBS, prepares disbursement

- AJCCs serve 500 people through Dislocated Worker intake process, and trusted community partners. AJCCs have a strong network of ELLs as a pilot program specifically to target non-English language speakers through the AJCCs commenced prior to COVID-19.

Supportive Services Disbursement: We know that much of the most vulnerable population in LA County is unbanked or underbanked, making checks an inefficient way to distribute needed funds. Dislocated workers have many competing priorities, such as buying food, paying rent, and keeping utilities on, which requires a flexible approach to supportive services. For this reason, WDACS is pursuing more innovative methods of deploying supportive services by using a no-cost pre-paid debit card product.