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To enrich lives through effective and caring service

March 10, 2017

To: Workforce Development Board

From: Josie Marquez, Assistant Director
Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS)

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOS ANGELES COUNTY WORKFORCE
INNOVATION FUND FOR FY 2017-18**

On January 27, 2017, the Workforce Development Board (WDB) approved a motion directing WDACS staff to propose a framework for a new Innovation Fund that will support WDB-directed pilot programs and related activities.

In order to begin the discussion of an Innovation Fund framework, below are programmatic and fiscal parameters for your board to consider:

- The WIOA budget requires setting aside 30% of the overall ADW funding and 20% of WIOA youth funding or about \$8 million per year for training and/or work experience.
- Training funds are allocated directly to the AJCCs with instructions to use the funds specifically to train job seekers in industries that have jobs available in the County. Per WIOA regulations, individuals must be placed in employment in areas they received the training.
- We have Board of Supervisors' delegated authority, up to \$250k, for WDACS to enter into agreements with Community Colleges and/or Adult Schools to provide training.
- For FY 17-18, allocate 10% of ADW and Youth funds to the Innovation Fund. Any expenditures authorized under this fund must meet the WIOA definition of training

and must be used under the delegated authority of the Board of Supervisors to enter into training agreements with Community Colleges and/or Adult Schools.

- Funds can also be used to provide work experience such as On-the-Job Training, pre-apprenticeship, paid work experience and apprenticeships.
- Preference will be given to projects that serve as an incubator to training programs that produce skilled workers for high growth industries.
- The primary populations to benefit from the use of these funds will be targeted populations in the County, such as disconnected youth, individuals coming out of the criminal justice system, veterans or individuals receiving public assistance. The use of these funds should be “last in” as targeted populations may be eligible for Pell grants or other financial aid.
- Innovation funds must be approved and allocated no later than the end of the 1st quarter of each fiscal year.

We wholeheartedly support the creation of an Innovation Fund to enhance the training of targeted populations and employer engagement.