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September 24, 2021

TO: Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board

FROM: Jose R. Perez, Assistant Director
Workforce Development Branch

SUBJECT: **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
PERFORMANCE UPDATE: FY 2020-2021,
THROUGH THE 4TH QUARTER**

This memo serves to provide you with a summary report on the LA County workforce system's performance through the four (4) quarters of FY 2020-21.

Summary

For all four (4) quarters of FY 2020-21, the Los Angeles County Workforce Development system had newly enrolled over 15,800 residents through the LA County America's Job Center of California (AJCCs) by providing access to career support, training assistance, supportive services, and other workforce development services. Including participants still actively being served from previous years, the system had helped 28,000 individuals thus far in the year, 96% of whom face at least one barrier to employment or are a member of a Priority Population. In addition, over 73% of all individuals served were categorized under the federal definition of low income.

More than 58% of individuals served were via the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult, Dislocated Worker, and/or Youth programs. These programs offer a range of activities and services including career counseling, individualized employment planning, training, work experience, and supportive services. Others are served through at least one of a variety of workforce programs to



assist residents with different barriers, including justice-involvement, housing insecurity, and displacement due to natural disasters and emergencies. Additionally, the Level I Work-Based Learning component of the Youth@Work program, in which we fund the six (6) other Workforce Development Boards (WDB), accounts for about 33% of all served. Youth@Work includes a range of activities such as career exploration, paid work experience, and soft skills development for residents ages 14-24, and is often the youth's first exposure to the professional world. All residents, regardless of background or experience are welcomed and encouraged to visit our AJCCs.

Through June 30, 2021, the workforce system met the statewide negotiated goals for the following measures: Credential Attainment, Measurable Skills Gain, and Median Earnings, except the Median Earnings for Dislocated Worker. For Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Placement Rates in 2nd Quarter after Exit, the goals were not met (falling short by 8%, 24%, and 8%, respectively). However, for 4th Quarter after Exit Placement Rate Adult is within 3% of goal, while Dislocated Worker and Youth fell short by 8% each. These rates fall below the standard performance level for the system, likely due to the pandemic and the unprecedented economic downturn. Despite the Placement measures performance, the system is working diligently with employers and education providers to build sustainable career pathways for participants, including apprenticeship and apprenticeship readiness programs such as that with CVS Health. Additionally, WDACS will be using upcoming federal dollars to support re-employment efforts throughout the County.

Demographics

As WDACS emphasizes a holistic approach to workforce development, it coordinates with other departments such as the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and the Probation Department, matching the AJCCs with various entities, including, but not limited to, housing assistance providers, legal assistance, and community-based organizations that can offer additional supportive services, to ensure the participant is empowered to manage all barriers to employment. Further, we are committed to creating economic opportunity for all, regardless of situation – about 29% of all participants receive public assistance, 13% are justice-involved, and 14% of those served are also experiencing some form of homelessness. Furthermore, about 80% of participants who provided their race/ethnicity identify as either Black or Latinx, which demonstrates our dedication to serving historically underserved groups.

Placement and Employment Data

Over 10,000 participants were connected to unsubsidized employment through the 4th quarter of this year. The top three (3) employers in FY 2020-21 were Heluna Health, Northrop Grumman, and Amazon. The occupation group with the most placements was the Office and Administrative Support category, which includes jobs that require skills that are transferrable to increasingly popular remote work positions. This aligns with the industry sector that was comprised of the most placements: Professional and Business Services. About 40% of all placements were in one of the identified high-growth sectors, the top of three (3) of which were Trade and Logistics, Health Services, and Leisure and Hospitality. Given the impact of the pandemic on the Leisure and Hospitality, the system is

prepared to assist through employer-driven policies, in which participants can access temporary or permanent work experience or on-the-job training opportunities. Other policies include incumbent worker trainings, which help employers upskill current employees through subsidized wages. Overall, over 16,500 total participants were placed in subsidized or unsubsidized employment this fiscal year; the number also includes WIOA Youth placements in advanced training and post-secondary education.

Next Steps

A summary report of the LA County workforce system's performance for 1st Quarter of FY 2021-22 will be provided at the next Quarterly Meeting. Please let us know if you have any questions.

JRP:IP:CLP
CV:LD:cv

Attachments:

Attachment I – *WDB Dashboard – FY 2020-21*