

# YEAR 26

Program Year 2025-2026

# ANNUAL PLAN OVERVIEW

## CITY OF LOS ANGELES

City of LA Workforce Development Board



**Karen Bass**, Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
**Marqueece Harris-Dawson**, President, City Council  
**Curren Price**, Chair, Economic Development and Jobs Committee  
**Charles Woo**, Chair, Workforce Development Board  
**Carolyn M. Hull**, General Manager, Economic and Workforce Development Department

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Submitted by:  
**Economic & Workforce  
Development Department**



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# Vision, Mission, and Five Year Goals

The City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board (WDB) is a strategic policymaking and oversight body established under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to direct and coordinate workforce services for the Los Angeles Workforce Development System (WDS). It provides leadership on workforce issues, WIOA oversight, and acts as a catalyst to provide seamless workforce development services. Comprised of up to 39 leaders representing business, organized labor, educational institutions, and economic and community development entities, it operates in partnership with the Mayor and City Council.

The Los Angeles WDB oversees over \$100 million in funds, 48 programs, and other activities administered by the City's Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD) and 28 America's Job Center of California<sup>SM</sup> (14 WorkSource Centers and 14 YouthSource Centers).

## The following are the shared vision, mission, and five-year goal of the WDB, Mayor, City Council, and the EWDD:



**VISION:** To create a thriving and inclusive Los Angeles where all residents achieve economic stability and success through a robust workforce system.



**MISSION:** To build an inclusive, integrated, and innovative workforce system that connects talent to opportunity, drives economic growth, and ensures equitable access to high-quality, living-wage jobs and career pathways for individuals and employers.



**FIVE-YEAR GOAL:** Connect **50,000 Angelenos** to high-quality, living-wage jobs, registered apprenticeships, paid work experiences, and training **by 2030**.

## Year 26 Annual Plan Goals (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026)

**The Year 26 Annual Plan establishes the priorities, strategies, policies, budget, and timeline for the Los Angeles WDS.** It articulates a framework of long-term strategic initiatives set forth to achieve the City's goal of placing its residents on a path to economic security through equity-focused strategies that create and expand access to living-wage jobs, remove barriers to employment for Angelenos facing the most significant economic disparities, and promote a strong regional economy. This equity-focused strategic framework also provides a strong foundation from which to continue to address challenges brought forth as the region recovers and transitions from the COVID-19 pandemic, the January 2025 Los Angeles Wildfire Disasters that displaced thousands of homeowners, workers, and businesses, and the ongoing homelessness crisis.

## A. Introduction

The City of Los Angeles seeks to further its work toward an innovative, diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforce development and training system in Program Year (PY) 2025–26. The EWDD, in partnership with Mayor Karen Bass’s Office of Economic Opportunity and the City of Los Angeles WDB, will strategically implement the Los Angeles Five-Year Workforce Development Plan (2025–30): A Path Forward. The Five-Year Path Forward aims to create and expand access to living-wage jobs and career pathways, remove barriers to employment for priority groups and vulnerable populations, and implement training programs to prepare residents for work in high-growth and in-demand sectors.

In 2024, the EWDD engaged in numerous strategic planning efforts intended to adapt to the changing demands of workforce needs, intensify partnerships, and strengthen the capacity of the WDS to serve the most vulnerable. These various targeted workforce plans (the Horizons 32K Opportunity Youth Strategic Plan, the AdvantAGE LA Older Worker Plan, the Los Angeles Workforce Infrastructure Network (LAWIN) Concept Paper, and the WorkSource and YouthSource System Redesign Plans) will be embedded in the work of the Five-Year Path Forward. In addition to the workforce development initiatives outlined in the Five-Year Path Forward, the **LA Wildfire disaster recovery** workforce development initiatives and the continued expansion or strengthening of **homeless services collaborations and partnerships** with the Mayor’s Office Inside Safe Initiative will be prioritized to continue to address the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles. The structure of the Year 26 Annual Plan has also been informed by the input from stakeholders across the system. Its goals are intended to provide direction for what the workforce system aims to achieve in the upcoming PY to support the Five-Year Path Forward’s goal of placing **50,000 Angelenos into high-quality, living-wage jobs, registered apprenticeships, paid work experiences and training as critical pathways to economic stability and success by 2030.**

The previous Year 25 Annual Plan, Program Year (PY) 2024–25, outlined eight overarching strategic initiatives used by the EWDD to achieve the City’s goal of placing its residents on the path to economic security through equity-focused strategies to create and expand access to good jobs for Angelenos facing the most significant economic disparities. These **eight strategic initiatives were folded into the framework of the Five-Year Path Forward** under the Year 26 Annual Plan (2025–26).

## Annual Plan Strategic Initiatives



## B. Economic Overview of the Region

Los Angeles boasts one of the largest and most diverse economies in the world, with key sectors driving its growth. The City is a global hub for many industries such as Entertainment and Media, International Trade, Technology and Innovation, Manufacturing, Health Care and Biotechnology, and Tourism. Despite its economic strengths, Los Angeles continues to face many challenges transitioning and recovering from the economic shutdowns, supply-chain disruptions, mass layoffs, and work dislocations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that exacerbated issues like income inequality, the high cost of living, and doing business in the City. Further, the region will have to brace for potential economic impacts from new federal policies on tariffs and immigration, as well as major cuts to funding as the White House reprioritizes spending and cuts programs that affect businesses and workers across the City. Additionally, as the region recovers and rebuilds from the January 2025 wildfires, it compounds the existing challenges in the LA region with population decline, inflation, housing affordability, and the cost of doing business in the City.

As of May 2025, data from the Employment Development Department (EDD) showed that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Los Angeles County was 5.8%.<sup>1</sup> In comparison, the California unemployment rate was 5.3%, and US unemployment was 4.2%. The civilian labor force increased to 5,073,000. Of those, 4,779,000 were employed and 294,000 were unemployed.



**Between May 2024 and May 2025, total nonfarm employment in Los Angeles County increased by 21,800, or 0.48%.**

- **Private Education and Health Services (up 49,200) registered the largest year-over employment uptick.** Health Care and Social Assistance (up 45,600) made up 93% of the sector’s gain, while Private Educational Services contributed the remaining 3,600 jobs.
- **Government posted a year-over job increase of 10,500,** with Local Government increasing employment by 10,600, State Government adding 800, and an offset loss of 900 in Federal Government.
- **Manufacturing continued its decades-long slide** as demonstrated by the largest industry contraction (down 14,600) over the year. Durable Goods led the decline, losing 8,800 jobs, followed by Nondurable Goods, which saw payrolls decline by 5,800.
- **Other industries posting year-over declines** were Construction (down 5,100), Financial Activities (down 4,700), Professional Services and Business (down 4,100), Leisure and Hospitality (down 2,400), Other Services (down 2,400), Information (down 2,400), and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (down 2,200). Mining and Logging remained unchanged.

According to the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) 2025 Economic Forecast, real GDP growth for Los Angeles County is projected at 2.1% in 2025 and 1.3% in 2026, a slowdown from 2024's unexpectedly high 3.4% growth.<sup>2</sup> Nonfarm payroll jobs are expected to grow by 0.7% in 2025 and 0.2% in 2026, continuing a positive but slowing trend. Unemployment is projected to rise to 6.1% in 2025, up from 5.7% in 2024. The Education, Health Care, and Leisure and Hospitality sectors will continue to drive job growth, while Manufacturing faces long-term decline. Los Angeles County's population decline has stabilized, with a slight increase of 4,800 residents in 2024.

Further, the report highlights that housing affordability remains a crisis, with just 11% of households able to afford a median-priced home, and while residential building permits have modestly increased, new construction remains well below the levels needed to alleviate the housing shortage. Related to the business environment, the cost of doing business in Los Angeles remains approximately 20% higher than the national average, continuing to pressure local businesses. Moreover, employment in Film and TV Production has not fully recovered post-strikes, with employment remaining below pandemic levels. Major upcoming events, including preparations for the 2028 Olympics, continue to drive infrastructure investment and business opportunities in the region. Lastly, regional wildfire risk and climate resilience remain significant concerns for long-term economic planning.

To better understand the economic conditions facing the City's labor market, the EWDD and WDB commissioned the LAEDC to prepare its *Los Angeles: People, Industry, and Jobs, 2022–2028* report, which provides an overview of the economic base, workforce, and key socioeconomic characteristics of the resident population in the City of Los Angeles. **Among its key findings, the following data provides key economic and demographic updates that impact the City's workforce:**



**Ongoing Economic Recovery from the Pandemic:** The City's economy continues to feel the impact of the COVID-19 health crisis that led to business closures and significant job losses, exacerbating inequality and access to good jobs in LA.



**Homelessness:** Homelessness continues to be a national and regional crisis. According to the Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA) 2024 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, there were 75,312 homeless persons in LA County and 45,252 in the City of LA.<sup>3</sup> While an estimated 31% are sheltered, an estimated 69% remain unhoused, either on the street or in unstable housing conditions. Of those, 82% are adults (ages 25 or older), 4% are youth (ages 18 to 24), and 25% are Older Adults (age 55 or older).



**High Cost of Living:** Escalating rents, rising costs of living, and inflation are still key drivers of homelessness in the region. According to the California Housing Partnership, as of May 2024, renters in Los Angeles County need to earn \$48.04 per hour—which is 2.9 times the City of Los Angeles minimum wage—to afford the average monthly rent of \$2,498.



**Income and Poverty:** In the City of Los Angeles, LAEDC data shows that 43% of working residents earn more than \$65,000 per year. In comparison, 32.3% earn between \$35,000 and \$65,000, and 20.8% earn between \$15,000 and \$35,000. The final 4% earn less than \$15,000 per year. LAEDC data also shows that 100,700 of the almost 826,000 total families (12.2% of all

families) had their incomes fall below the poverty level within the prior year. The combination of low wages and high cost of living has led to increasing poverty, financial instability, and economic inequality.



**Population Decline:** The County’s population is and will continue to decrease and is expected to reach 9.3 million by 2040 and 8.3 million by 2060. Declining birth rate, rising living costs, and shifts in other economic, cultural, and social dynamics are likely to result in overall decreases in net immigration. In January 2022, the population in Los Angeles County was 9.7 million, a decline of more than 435,000 (-4.3%) from the pre-pandemic population of 10.1 million in 2020. This population decline could indicate a troubling labor shortage across key industry sectors, reduced high-income earners and entrepreneurs, and declining tax revenue, further hindering the City’s economic growth and quality of life.



**Aging Workforce:** The number of Older Adults (55+) is increasing faster than any other age group. Older Adults are 25% of the City’s total population and represent 20% of the region’s workforce, meaning that 1 in 5 workers in LA are 55+. There are almost 1 million Older Adults in the City of Los Angeles (966, 295), representing 17% of the City’s unemployed population.



**Educational Attainment:** In Los Angeles, 40% of the adult population age 25 and over has a high school diploma or less, while another 40% does not have the requisite training and education for quality employment opportunities in the City of LA. Studies support that individuals with no high school diploma compose a far greater share of the population in poverty than the general population and that those with a high school diploma and no college are overrepresented to a lesser degree.



**Increased Disconnection Rates for 16-to-24-Year-Olds:** Since the pandemic (March 2020), there has been a 39% increase in youth disconnection rates (youth not in school nor employed). Census data shows that as of 2021, there are currently 62,000 disconnected youth in LA.



The combination of low wages and high cost of living has led to increasing poverty, financial instability, and economic inequality.

## C. LA Wildfire Disaster Recovery

On January 7, 2025, massive wildfires across the City and County destroyed entire neighborhoods in Pacific Palisades and Altadena, displacing thousands from their homes, businesses, and communities. The nine wildfires throughout the month of January consumed more than 50,000 acres. Taken together, the 2025 LA wildfire event is one of the costliest natural disasters in the nation’s history.

The 2025 Los Angeles wildfires have resulted in significant economic, property, and employment losses, with total property damages estimated between \$28.0 billion and \$53.8 billion. The Palisades and Eaton Fires account for the majority of these losses, impacting thousands of properties and businesses, with 19,884 parcels and 30,487 structures burned down between these areas. The estimated initial direct economic loss is \$1.26 billion of sales revenue and 8,200 jobs. **In a recent study, *Impact of 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires and Comparative Study*, researchers highlight that business disruptions within the fire perimeters are projected to cause \$4.6 billion to \$8.9 billion in lost economic output in Los Angeles County over five years (2025–29), representing approximately 0.3% to 0.6% of the County’s total economic output.**<sup>4</sup> The fires could lead to employment losses totaling between 24,990 and 49,110 job-years (the amount of work equivalent to one person working full-time for one year) and labor income reductions ranging from \$1.9 billion to \$3.7 billion. Additionally, federal, state, and local governments could see tax revenue losses between \$0.73 billion and \$1.4 billion due to reduced business activity and employment.

In the wake of the devastating January 2025 wildfires in Los Angeles, the City extended its full support in the recovery of affected businesses and displaced workers. Resources will continue to be made readily available through the City’s America’s Job Centers of America (AJCC) Adult and Youth System and BusinessSource Centers to aid in the steps of recovery.



**...business disruptions within the fire perimeters are projected to cause \$4.6 billion to \$8.9 billion in lost economic output in Los Angeles County over five years (2025–29), representing approximately 0.3% to 0.6% of the County’s total economic output.**<sup>4</sup>



## D. Homelessness Crisis in Los Angeles

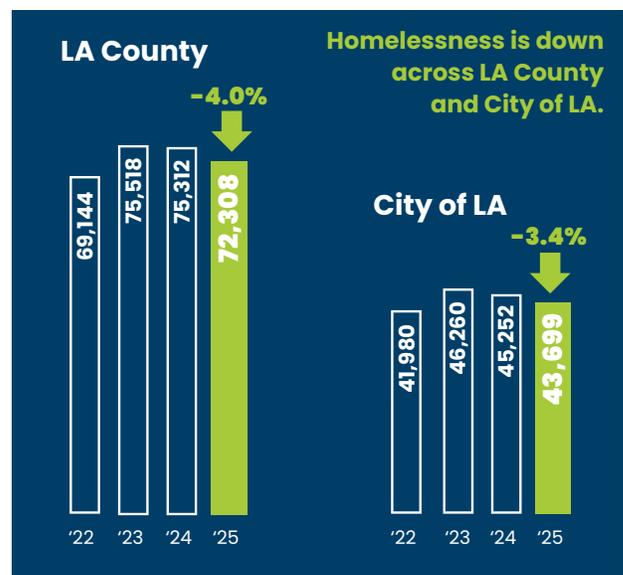
On December 12, 2022, Mayor Karen Bass issued a Declaration of Local Emergency regarding the homelessness crisis in the City of Los Angeles. Since then, addressing the homelessness crisis has been a major area of focus to serve the most vulnerable. The most recent report by Los Angeles Housing Services Authority's (LAHSA) 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count demonstrates that for a second year, homelessness is down across Los Angeles County, falling by **4% to 72,308, and also declined in the City of Los Angeles, falling by 3.4% to 43,699 (which includes 16,727 sheltered and 26,972 unsheltered)**. Another key metric, unsheltered homelessness, decreased countywide by 9.5% and within the City of Los Angeles by 7.9%. Over the last two years, unsheltered homelessness has dropped in the County and City of Los Angeles by 14% and 17.5%, respectively.<sup>1</sup>

The unsheltered counts reflect the success of encampment resolution programs, such as **Inside Safe** and **Pathway Home**, which bring people inside rapidly. Since their inception, the two signature programs have combined to place 6,317 people in interim housing and have permanently housed 1,449 people. Additionally, the number of permanent housing placements reached an all-time high of nearly 27,994 in 2024, representing a 2.5% increase from the previous year. This result is possible, in part, due to the 2,960 permanent supportive housing units created in 2024 — many of which were made possible by Prop HHH. This record performance has pushed the total number of housing placements since 2017 over 125,000.

**Homelessness disproportionately impacts Black, Latino, Indigenous, immigrant, women, youth, elderly, and LGBTQ+ Angelenos.** Historically exclusionist policies continue to result in Black and Latino residents being overrepresented. In Los Angeles, 46% of people experience homeless are Latino and 29.2% are black.

According to LAHSA, the median monthly income for unsheltered individuals was \$387. Local income inequality has been demonstrated to be a cause of homelessness, and researchers stress the importance of strengthening the ability of low-income residents to afford housing.<sup>6</sup> Underserved, low-income communities are the first to experience the effects of the increasing income gap as higher earners outcompete them in a market where units are becoming overwhelmingly unaffordable. **54% of all newly homeless unsheltered persons report economic hardship as a reason for falling into homelessness, and 46% report that they are actively looking for work.**<sup>7</sup> Addressing the issue of inadequate income goes hand in hand with achieving stable housing outcomes for People Experiencing Homelessness.

The WDS must be central to efforts that both address and prevent homelessness. The EWDD will maintain its collaboration with the Mayor's Office to enhance and expand support for the unhoused through key programs and initiatives such as the Los Angeles Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise (LA:RISE), WIOA, and Inside Safe Job Connectors Programs.



Source: 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

## E. Los Angeles Five-Year Workforce Development Plan (2025–30): A Path Forward



**FIVE-YEAR PATH OVERARCHING GOAL:** Connect **50,000 Angelenos** to high-quality, living-wage jobs, registered apprenticeships, paid work experiences, and training **by 2030.**

### The Five-Year Path Forward’s key objectives:



**Building a stronger workforce ecosystem**



**Promoting economic mobility for high-barrier populations**



**Developing industry-specific sector strategies**

Five-Year Path prioritizes collaboration among government, labor, educational institutions, businesses, and community organizations to provide both workers and employers with the support they need to thrive.

### To create a stronger, more inclusive workforce system, the strategies outlined in the Five-Year Path Forward aim to:



Connect Angelenos with **quality jobs and opportunities** to continue developing their skills and qualifications.



Ensure pathways to quality jobs are accessible by providing Angelenos facing the greatest economic disparities with **targeted job pathways and wraparound services** that remove barriers to employment.



**Adapt to changes in workforce needs** by considering demand from both the worker and employer perspectives.

## The WDS seeks to develop career pathways in the following key industries that are experiencing significant growth:

- 1 Biosciences:** Partner with leading universities, community colleges, and biotech firms to prepare individuals for roles in groundbreaking research and manufacturing.
- 2 Blue and Green Economy:** Train workers for future jobs in renewable energy, sustainability, and climate resilience that not only build careers but protect our planet.
- 3 City of Los Angeles and Public Sector Agencies:** Expand opportunities in the public sector through initiatives like Targeted Local Hire to offer upward mobility for veterans, justice-involved individuals, and high-barrier populations.
- 4 Construction:** Empower individuals through apprenticeships in public infrastructure and green building projects, providing unionized jobs that offer not just a paycheck but a future.
- 5 Entertainment, Motion Picture, and Sound Recording:** Leverage Los Angeles's position as a global entertainment hub by expanding opportunities in media production, film, and television. With several of these jobs offering living wages, the sector provides vital opportunities for middle-skill workers and creative professionals.
- 6 Health Care and Social Assistance:** Expand training and apprenticeships with hospitals and health centers to create pathways for women, people of color, and Older Workers to enter and advance in health care—one of the fastest-growing sectors.
- 7 Performing Arts, Spectator Events, and Related Industries:** Tap into LA's cultural and economic strength by leveraging global events like the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the 2026 FIFA World Cup to create accessible roles in media production and event management.
- 8 Transportation:** Place individuals into jobs and work experiences within the transportation industry to help meet the growing demand in freight transportation and logistics, among other areas.

In PY 2025–26, the EWDD, Mayor's Office, and WDB will jointly work toward **implementing the Five-Year Path Forward by establishing a Policy and Oversight Committee, Business Services Committee/Sector Coalitions, and Regional Collaborative efforts** to ensure continued dedication and alignment. The Five-Year Path Forward is built on the vision of creating a resilient, inclusive workforce system that meets the needs of Angelenos and supports sustainable economic growth. Over the next five years, this roadmap will prioritize equity, innovation, and collaboration, ensuring that all residents, particularly those from historically underserved communities, have access to high-quality, living-wage jobs.

## Year 1 Implementation—Calendar Year 2025

In the first year of implementation, the **Policy and Oversight Committee** will focus on creating accountability processes to monitor and implement objectives and initiatives across the WDS and to develop processes to support the regular monitoring of policy and data to make them actionable. This includes recruiting members into the committee, finalizing a template approach to form Sector Coalitions, centralizing workforce data and releasing insights, and establishing baseline metrics. The **Business Services Committee** will launch a coalition and monitor how this pilot approach can then be applied to future sectors through **the establishment of Sector Coalitions**. They will initiate a coalition focused on the public sector and then focus on launching coalitions within the rest of the nine prioritized sectors identified in the Five-Year Path Forward. Finally, the **Regional Collaborative initiatives** will focus on integrating and coordinating existing workforce plans across the City of Los Angeles and the broader region through one coordinated framework. This includes creating a dashboard to manage regional plans and integrating key workforce plans for unified action.

**The establishment of Sector Coalitions, regional workforce collaboratives, and a WDB Policy and Oversight Committee will contribute to year-by-year action roadmaps that will guide local initiatives and ensure continued dedication to the Five-Year Path Forward.**



## Measuring Success and Impact

Progress will be systematically monitored across all workforce initiatives for consistent tracking of outcomes. Such accountability will allow for the identification of opportunities for strategic alignment, prioritization of key objectives, and the efficient use of resources to address evolving workforce needs and economic trends over time.

### Key metrics of the Five-Year Path Forward include:



**Job Placements:** Monitoring the number of individuals placed into sustainable, living-wage jobs, with a focus on high-barrier populations and long-term economic mobility.



**Work Experience Opportunities:** Tracking the number of paid internships, apprenticeships, and career-exploration opportunities that provide Angelenos with critical pathways to transformative career growth and long-term stability.



**Sector Strategy Outcomes:** Measuring career advancements within high-growth industries through targeted sector strategies that align with market needs.



**Service Delivery:** Evaluating the effectiveness of workforce centers in delivering holistic support services such as childcare, transportation, and other essential services that facilitate both job placements and work experiences.

## Data, accountability, and collaboration will ensure that the Five-Year Path Forward delivers results:



### Annual Targets

The Five-Year Path Forward aims to place **10,000 Angelenos into living-wage jobs and work experiences** every year, with a strong focus on equity, inclusion, and opportunity for all.



# Strategic Initiatives for Program Year 2025–26

## A. Regional Collaborative:

### Integrate Key Workforce Plans and Programs for Unified Action

During PY 2025–26, the EWDD will integrate existing EWDD workforce strategic plans for unified action under the **Five-Year Path Forward**. The following will be part of the Regional Collaborative efforts:



As outlined in the **Five-Year Path Forward**, the EWDD will support the work of the **Policy and Oversight Committee** to lay the foundation for the **Regional Collaborative work**, including the procurement and creation of a dashboard that can be maintained by the Regional Collaborative and updated by relevant project teams to track progress on active workforce projects and strategies.



# Strategic Initiatives for Program Year 2025–26

## Year 25 Workforce Development Board Annual Plan

The Year 25 Workforce Development Board Annual Plan (July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025), developed in partnership with the EWDD and the Los Angeles WDB, outlined **pivotal objectives that align with the overarching goals of the Five-Year Path Forward.**

**OBJECTIVE.** Increase accessibility to sustainable employment opportunities for high-barrier populations through targeted workforce development strategies.



**GOAL.** Place 5,500 individuals in sustainable employment through programs like Inside Safe Job Connectors and LA:RISE.

**OBJECTIVE.** Increase youth workforce outcomes.



**GOAL.** Enroll 5,000 Opportunity Youth in career pathways programs through the Horizons 32K

**OBJECTIVE.** Promote gender and age equity.



**GOAL.** Increase training and placement of women and Older Adults in high-growth sectors, ensuring pay equity and addressing employment gaps through initiatives such as AdvantAGE LA.

**OBJECTIVE.** Develop high-growth-sector-focused training programs.



**GOAL.** Scale up High Road Training Partnerships, expand apprenticeship programs, and ensure equitable access to training that leads to well-paying jobs.





# Strategic Initiatives for Program Year 2025–26

## AdvantAGE LA: A Blueprint for Employing, Retaining, and Advancing Older Workers Across LA

The AdvantAGE LA Plan complements the Five-Year Path Forward by providing a comprehensive approach to supporting one of LA’s key workforce demographics—Older Workers.

To address the demographic transformation characterized by a growing population of Older Adults (55 years or older) who remain active in the workforce longer than any previous generation, the EWDD will implement the **AdvantAGE LA Plan**. The City’s vision **supports the economic and social value of Older Workers to the workforce, businesses, and communities and leverages their talent to advance economic vitality in the region**. Further, the plan includes core metrics that can be used to evaluate the success of implementation and enable accountability in the growth of workforce services for Older Adults. The WDS intends to be responsive to the needs of Older Workers, set examples and provide tools for increased age-inclusive employment, and provide in-demand training and career-advancement pathways. By championing equity, empowering underserved communities, and driving inclusive economic growth, the Five-Year Path Forward positions the City of Los Angeles to effectively meet the evolving needs of its residents and industries, ensuring a more prosperous and resilient future for all.

**OBJECTIVE.** Establish an AdvantAGE LA Leadership Taskforce.



**GOAL.** Identify and recruit Taskforce members.



**GOAL.** Align efforts and build cross-departmental and cross-agency coordination.

**OBJECTIVE.** Increase the number of employers who employ, retain, and advance Older Workers.



**GOAL.** Develop an outreach and marketing campaign to increase employers’ awareness of the aging labor force, help them recognize the value of Older Workers, and create age-inclusive workplaces.

**OBJECTIVE.** Launch an Older Worker training program or partner with community agencies that upskill or reskill Older Workers in high-growth sectors.



**GOAL.** Develop earn-and-learn opportunities in high-need industries and market them to Older Workers.



**GOAL.** Provide incumbent-worker training for Older Workers to help them adapt to technological advancements and stay relevant in the rapidly evolving job market.



**GOAL.** Identify and recruit Taskforce members.



# Strategic Initiatives for Program Year 2025–26

## Horizons 32K Strategic Plan (formerly LAP3)

The Horizons 32K Strategic Plan, formerly known as LAP3, ties directly into the Five-Year Path Forward by providing a focused roadmap to support LA’s Opportunity Youth (OY) ages 16 to 24 who are not currently employed or in school.

Building from the success of the new **Horizons 32K Strategic Plan** reaffirms the City’s commitment to serving LA County’s 143,000 OY, charting a course toward a more inclusive, supportive future. The Horizons 32K plan aims to **reduce the number of young adults experiencing disconnection from school and work in LA County by 22% (32,000) by 2027**. This collaboration facilitates data sharing, cultivates partnerships, offers capacity-building support, and advocates for policy changes to ensure all OY have access to quality education, training, and employment opportunities. Four targeted support sectors—K–12 and Post-Secondary Education, Workforce Training, Employment, and Cross-Sector Coordination—and their aligned youth-impact metrics will drive this coalition’s success. By aligning its objectives with the broader Five-Year Path Forward, the Horizons 32K plan contributes to the broader workforce development strategy, fostering economic growth and equity for some of LA’s most vulnerable populations.

**OBJECTIVE.** Reduce the number of young adults experiencing disconnection from school and work in LA County by 22% (32,000) by 2027.



**GOAL.** Promote innovation, continuous improvement, and collaboration between LA-region education and Workforce systems to support Opportunity Youth (OY) connection to quality career pathways and employment.



**GOAL.** Increase the use of data to track Horizons 32K coalition progress and data sharing among Horizons 32K coalition partners to drive the common agenda, innovation, and quality of service.



**GOAL.** Increase policy advocacy at local, state, and national levels to influence policy and resources impacting OY in the LA region.



**GOAL.** Increase cross-sector coordination and collaboration between government organizations to meet the holistic comprehensive needs of OY as they enter and persist in education/training programs.





# Strategic Initiatives for Program Year 2025–26

## Los Angeles Workforce Infrastructure Network (LAWIN) Strategic Plan

In collaboration with the Miguel Contreras Foundation, this initiative will prepare the City’s WDS to meet the projected employment demand spurred by federal investments from President Biden’s 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The LAWIN concept paper provides **high-level recommendations from key partners of the Los Angeles workforce development ecosystem to prepare the workforce for federal investments and ensure equity in the new opportunities of quality skilled-career pathways for all LA residents.** To bridge the disconnect between infrastructure investment and workforce development, LAWIN will work to increase the ongoing collaboration between public, union, and community-based organizations to develop ongoing communication and planning; increase the awareness and utilization of current industry-recognized infrastructure workforce training programs; increase the identification of gaps in current partner offerings; and increase the number of young adults in skilled trades and pathways to meet Los Angeles infrastructure workforce needs. The City is in conversation with the Brookings Institution to continually identify key infrastructure projects to strategically deploy investments that support workforce needs.

**OBJECTIVE.** Develop a workable plan for transformative partnerships in infrastructure.



**GOAL.** Pursue a City policy to set aside 1% to 3% of all City- capital infrastructure projects funded by the federal infrastructure bill to be directed for workforce development projects



**GOAL.** Invest at least \$2 million in workforce experience dollars (such as Youth Service Corps, General Fund, LA County, or other grant funds) to seed and expand workforce development programming to increase workforce participation for high-barrier groups.



**GOAL.** Assemble a City, union, and community-partner grant-writing team to apply for large-scale federal Department of Labor (DOL), Commerce, and EPA grants to increase overall resources for the Los Angeles workforce ecosystem.





# Strategic Initiatives for Program Year 2025–26

## LA Youth Development Department (YDD) Citywide Strategic Plan

The LA Youth Development Department (YDD) Citywide Strategic Plan, developed in partnership with the Youth Council, serves as a blueprint to fulfill the YDD’s mission of **fostering an equitable and sustainable positive youth-development ecosystem**. The EWDD will work in partnership with the YDD to complete the following initiatives:



**OBJECTIVE.** Youth have the knowledge and means to be economically independent.



**GOAL.** Reconnect OY to education and employment.



**GOAL.** Facilitate the creation of more pathways into careers with family-supporting wages for youth outside of City employment.

**OBJECTIVE.** Youth have access to culturally appropriate mental health services to support their overall well-being.



**GOAL.** Expand access to culturally appropriate mental health services for youth.



**GOAL.** Expand and diversify the clinical and nonclinical mental health professional workforce.

**OBJECTIVE.** Implement the YouthSource Center redesign recommendations.



**GOAL.** Implement Tiered System to ensure youth receive quality work experience based on their skillsets.



**GOAL.** Focus on mental health services for youth.



# Strategic Initiatives for Program Year 2025–26

## YouthSource and WorkSource System Redesigns

This effort is intended to strengthen and streamline LA City’s AJCCs, which currently serve more than 16,000 job seekers and 4,000 businesses each year.

**OBJECTIVE.** Increase education and/or employment outcomes for OY.



**GOAL.** Launch the YouthSource Center Navigator program with LAUSD Division of Adult and Career Education (LAUSD DACE) to increase enrollment of YSC participants into vocational training programs and connect them to high-quality, living-wage jobs.

**OBJECTIVE.** Leverage technology to increase accessibility to Source Centers.



**GOAL.** Use WSC redesign data to determine staff needs related to technology.



**GOAL.** Pilot a participant-facing app with two centers, then scale up.





# Strategic Initiatives for Program Year 2025–26

## B. Sector Coalitions and Apprenticeship Programs in High-Growth Areas That Lead to Jobs with Living Wages

Sector Coalitions will establish collaborations between employers, workforce providers, training institutions, the City, and other partners to create connected pathways in high-growth sectors. In addition to aligning workforce training with industry demands, the coalitions will establish registered apprenticeship programs that provide job seekers with hands-on, paid training opportunities in key sectors.

**During PY 2025–26, the EWDD will support the foundational work of the Policy and Oversight Committee and Business Services Committee to:**

- » **Standardize a Career Pathway framework for each sector strategy** to map job opportunities, workforce, and education programs for each experience level.
- » **Define metrics that will tie sector strategies to the goal** of 50,000 placements in high-quality, living-wage jobs.
- » **Assist the Policy and Oversight Committee in conducting a comprehensive mapping of existing apprenticeship programs** across the City of Los Angeles to identify program locations, industries served, capacity, and key partners.
- » **Ensure the identified sectors apply to current and future workforce needs.**
- » **Identify strategies for engaging participants** who have barriers to participation in apprenticeship programs.
- » **Coordinate with WDBs in the local region to identify opportunities for alignment.**

# IV.

## Highlights of Program Year 2024–25 Accomplishments

During PY 2024–25, the EWDD provided a broad range of programs that offered assistance in business support, employment, and youth development. All programs are designed to grow and improve Los Angeles’s economy while building a well-trained and job-ready workforce. **Following are a few highlights of PY 2024–25 accomplishments:**

### A. Adult System Outcomes



#### WIOA AJCC/ WorkSource Center System

- ✔ Prioritized serving high-barrier individuals and other vulnerable populations through the AJCC system. As of June 30, 2025, the WSC System has served a total of 12,949 adult and dislocated worker job seekers through the City’s 14 WSCs. Of those participants, **2,750 were individuals experiencing homelessness, 1,895 were individuals with disabilities, 1,173 were single parents, 810 were veterans, 1,802 were justice-involved individuals, 819 were English-language learners, and 12,211 were low-income individuals.**



» **130% of enrollment goal met**

#### Inside Safe Job Connectors Program

- ✔ Eight Job Connectors were funded to support 200 recently housed individuals connected to a job or training through one of the City’s WSCs or YSCs. As of June 2025, the total number of participants served by a Job Connector is **412**. **The number of referrals received is 646; number enrolled with a local WorkSource or YouthSource Center is 52; number of job applications submitted for employment is 1,566; number secured part-time or full-time employment is 71.** The Job Connectors have also been providing on-site assistance at the Skid Row Care Campus.

» **206% of enrollment goal met**

# IV.

## Highlights of Program Year 2024–25 Accomplishments



### LA:RISE



Continued the success of the LA:RISE program (funded by a \$6 million investment of City General Funds and Los Angeles County Measure H funds) with a goal of placing 800 adults experiencing homelessness into transitional employment. As of June 30, 2025, a total of **873 individuals experiencing homelessness have been placed in transitional employment through LA:RISE programs.**

» **109% of enrollment goal met**



### High Road Training Partnership (H RTP) Program



Continued to provide services and expand employer engagement under the H RTP program with a goal of placing 200 participants in jobs that provide high-wage and career opportunities with upward mobility. H RTP key industry sectors include, but are not limited to, the following: Renewable Energy, Construction, Biotechnology/ Biosciences, Advanced Manufacturing, Entertainment/Film, Hospitality, and Transportation/Logistics. As of June 30 2025, seven currently contracted WSCs have enrolled a total of **455 job seekers in the H RTP program, and 155 have been placed into career opportunities. Additionally, a total of 46 employer partnerships have been established.**

» **227% of of enrollment goal met**



### HireLAX Pre-Apprenticeship Program Partnership



Continued partnership with the HireLAX Pre-Apprenticeship eight-week program to support individuals seeking a career in the construction industry, with a goal of enrolling 80 individuals. As of March 1, 2025, a total of **80 individuals have enrolled and participated in HireLAX.**

» **100% of goal met**



# IV.

## Highlights of Program Year 2024–25 Accomplishments

### Prison to Employment (P2E)



Continued to provide WIOA workforce services under the P2E 2.0 to expanded service areas, including augmented services such as record expungement, counseling, financial literacy, tattoo removal, mental health counseling, and parenting workshops. The goal was to serve 271 formerly incarcerated or justice-involved individuals and to train a minimum of 95. This is a multi-year service goal. As of December 2024, the P2E 2.0 grant has exceeded its enrollment goal, with a combined 664 enrollments across all of its P2E 2.0-funded WSCs/AJCCs. The City's P2E 2.0 system placed 342 of its enrollees in training activities.



» **245% of enrollment goal met**

» **140% of training goal met**

### Los Angeles County Innovative Employment Solutions (INVEST)



The City partnered with the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to continue to prepare a minimum of 200 justice-involved individuals currently on Adult Probation for permanent employment along a career pathway through the INVEST program. INVEST provides intensive case management, training, and unsubsidized employment. The City currently contracts two WSCs, the Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD) and Goodwill Industries of Southern California, to serve communities in South Los Angeles and the Northeast San Fernando Valley. As of March 1, 2025, a total of 135 participants have been served by this program!



» **68% of goal met**

### LA Wildfire Disaster Recovery Center



The City and County worked closely with the State and FEMA to open Disaster Recovery Centers for Angelenos impacted by the fires. The EWDD provided resources to businesses and workers at the Disaster Recovery Center located at the UCLA Research Park. The center operated from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., seven days per week from January to April 2025. These centers helped those who lost vital records (birth certificates, death certificates, driver's licenses, social security documentation) with their recovery efforts, helped those who lost their homes or businesses apply for disaster relief loans, and provided referrals for mental health counseling and other services.



# IV.

## Highlights of Program Year 2024–25 Accomplishments



### B. Youth System Outcomes

#### WIOA AJCC/ YouthSource System



Prioritized serving high-barrier individuals and other vulnerable populations through the AJCC system. As of June 30, 2025, the WDS has served a total of **2,223 youth (1,738 out-of-school youth, 485 in-school youth, 261 foster youth, and 35 systems-involved youth)** through the YouthSource System.

» **106% of enrollment goal met**



#### LAUSD DACE YouthSource Center Navigator Program



Launched the YouthSource Center Navigator program with the LAUSD Division of Adult and Career Education (LAUSD DACE) to increase enrollment of YSC participants into vocational training programs. Similar to the partnership with the WorkSource System, LAUSD DACE personnel will now be located at designated YSCs to co-case manage clients, strengthen the referral system between DACE schools and YSCs, and provide soft-skills training. WIOA YSC Navigators will assist students/clients in navigating the WIOA systems to streamline services and accelerate student/client goal attainment. The WIOA YSC Navigators are co-located at YSCs and at DACE Adult Schools. 4 WIOA YSC Navigators were assigned to 14 YSCs representing 10 DACE service areas. The co-enrollment and referrals between the YSC System and DACE will ensure that YSC participants have the opportunity to pursue high-road, high-wage industry sectors while receiving case management and supportive services to pursue in-demand jobs. **This partnership set an ambitious goal of co-enrolling 70% of YSC participants into Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs so that they have access to career pathways into high-wage occupations.** These Navigators will be critical in helping the City achieve this goal as both a system and a partnership in workforce development for the City of Los Angeles.

# IV.

## Highlights of Program Year 2024–25 Accomplishments



### Youth Service Corps (formerly CaliforniansForAll-funded youth initiatives)



Continued to implement Youth Service Corps initiatives—in partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Economic Opportunity, the Department of Public Works, the YDD, the Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD), and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP)—to serve a greater number of young people who have experienced significant hardship from disparities in job loss and economic insecurity, as well as to help reverse educational loss and disconnection. 19 youth programs were created to provide transitional employment and related career services to support a minimum of 2,146 OY ages 16 to 30. As of June 30, 2025, Youth Service Corps programs have served a total of **3,766 disconnected youth and placed them into work experiences.**



» **139%** of enrollment goal met

### Hire LA’s Youth Campaign and Funded Youth Initiatives



Continued to expand efforts to increase the number of multibarrier youth served by the Hire LA’s Youth-funded initiatives. The goal was to serve a minimum of 2,850 disconnected youth/ opportunity youth. As of June 30, 2025, the WDS served a total of **2,727 disconnected youth through the Hire LA City General Fund and County Youth-at-Work programs.**



» **95%** of enrollment goal met

# IV.

## Highlights of Program Year 2024–25 Accomplishments



### YouthSource Center Advisory Council



The YouthSource System, in partnership with the YDD and the Hilton Foundation, launched the YSC Youth Advisory Council Initiative to establish youth-led advisory councils at each of the 14 YSCs. As of March 1, 2025, more than **140 youth** have participated in the initiative, furthering the YouthSource System’s commitment to centering youth voices and expanding leadership opportunities for disconnected youth and other disadvantaged youth populations.



### Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Youth Navigator Program



Launched the LACCD Youth Navigator Program to increase access to career pathways in high-wage occupations for YSC participants through the strategic collaboration between the YSCs and the nine LACCD community colleges. LACCD empowers students to identify and complete their goals through educational and support programs that lead to the completion of two- or four-year degrees, certificates, transfer, or career preparation. The partnership supports the YSCs in achieving their goal of co-enrolling 70% of YSC participants into CTE programs. The EWDD and the LACCD fund the project through the Regional Economic and Recovery Partnership to co-locate LACCD Mentors throughout the 14 YSCs to assist YSC participants in navigating LACCD programs and resources. **This program strengthens the co-enrollment strategy between the nine community colleges and the YSC System.**



# IV.

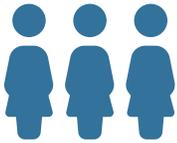
## Highlights of Program Year 2024–25 Accomplishments

### C. PY 2024–25 Participants Served: WIOA TITLE I (Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs)

#### Total Participants:

**15,085**

#### Gender:



**7,988**

Women



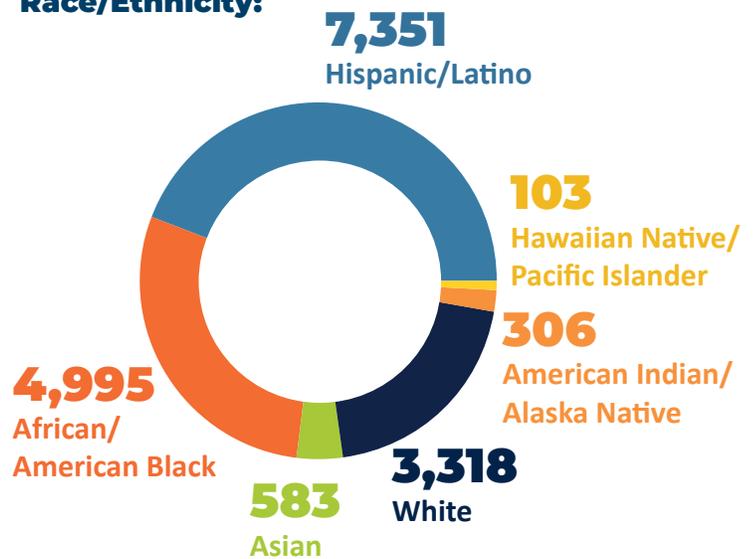
**6,882**

Men

**40**

Did not self-identify

#### Race/Ethnicity:



#### Priority Populations:



**810** Veterans



**1,743** Justice-Involved Individuals



**1,909** Age 55+ (Older Workers)



**835** English Language Learners



**12,450** Low Income



**2,000** Individuals with Disabilities



**3,240** Homeless Individuals



**1,738** Opportunity Youth

Data Source: CalJOBS data (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

# IV.

## Highlights of Program Year 2024–25 Accomplishments

### D. LA Wildfire Disaster Recovery Workforce Development Efforts

The EWDD will continue disaster recovery development efforts during PY 2025–26 and will administer various LA Wildfire Disaster Recovery Center Grants. Through a \$10 million Employment Development Department (EDD) disaster recovery grant, local workforce development boards and community partners will provide a range of targeted programs and services, including:

- » **Temporary and Transitional Job Opportunities:** Connecting displaced workers to humanitarian aid roles, cleanup efforts, and transitional jobs that offer pathways to sustainable employment.
- » **Workforce Development Programs:** Offering on-the-job training, skill-building initiatives, and career development services through AJCCs to ensure impacted workers are equipped to thrive in the evolving job market.
- » **Comprehensive Support Services:** Providing additional assistance, such as with housing, childcare, and transportation support, to stabilize families and enable long-term recovery.

Beginning February 13, 2025, EWDD launched four (4) Impacted Worker and Family Recovery Centers (IWFRC) in coordination with the Mayor’s Office. The IWFRCs were able to provide resources and services, including assistance applying for income support programs, access to basic needs, job application assistance, job placement opportunities, and financial advice for recovery. A total of 362 individuals received assistance submitting Worker Relief Fund applications. As of July 28, 2025, a total of **800 individuals came in to WSCs for ‘Wildfire-Impacted’ program services.**



# IV.

## Highlights of Program Year 2024–25 Accomplishments

### E. Addressing the Homelessness Crisis in Los Angeles

Confronting the growing homelessness crisis continues to be an urgent priority for the City of Los Angeles. Therefore, in alignment with the Five-Year Path Forward, the **WDS will continue to expand partnerships with homelessness service providers and help implement service strategies to provide job-skills training, employment services, and other related services for individuals currently and/or formerly experiencing homelessness.** Special attention will be provided to communities disproportionately impacted by homelessness, including Black, Latino, Indigenous, and immigrant Angelenos, as well as women, youth, Older Workers, and LGBTQ+ communities. The City will support regional efforts to reduce homelessness by expanding employer-driven pathways to well-paying and stable employment by integrating public, private, educational, and nonprofit systems and employment social enterprises through its AJCC/WSC system. Successful program models such as the **LA:RISE** transitional employment program and the Inside Safe Job Connectors Program, stationed at multiple Inside Safe locations across the City, will expand regional access to WSC and YSC employment programs and support recently housed individuals.

On June 18, 2023, the City Council instructed the EWDD to report back with a multi-year work plan to scale up employment programs, such as Los Angeles Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise (LA:RISE), that can help transition individuals out of homelessness. The EWDD was also instructed to coordinate with the Olivia E. Mitchell LA City Youth Council (OMYC) on program development. **Since then, the EWDD has collaborated with the Youth Development Department (YDD) and solicited feedback directly from the Youth Council to inform the work plan.**



The Los Angeles WDS is a network of local and regional governments, community-based organizations, educational institutions, employers, and labor unions. It exists to support job seekers with training, education, and employment opportunities and to support businesses through skills development and recruitment of workers who fit their unique needs.

### LA Economic Workforce Development Department

- WIOA Title I - Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs
- Horizons 32K
- HireLA
- LA:RISE
- Youth Service Corps
- Youth@Work

### LA Community College District

- WIOA Title II - Adult Education and Family Literacy Act

### CA Department of Rehabilitation

- WIOA Title IV - Rehabilitation Act
- Competitive Integrated Employment Coordination

### LA County Child Support Services Department

- Non-Custodial Parent Services

### CA Employment Development Department

- WIOA Title III - Wagner-Peyser
- Veteran Services
- Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

### LA County Department of Probation

- Project Invest
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Program

### LA Department of Public Social Services

- TANF
- Summer Youth Employment
- CalFresh Employment and Training
- GAIN

### LA Unified School District

- WIOA Title II - Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (WSC Navigators)
- Pupil Services and Attendance Counselors (YSC)
- Sector Training



## New Revenue

The Year 26 Annual Plan comprises \$110.4 million in diverse funding sources that include federal, state, and local funding. Total revenue includes \$48.6 million in WIOA funding and \$61.8 million in non-WIOA funds. The diversity of funding built by the EWDD, in partnership with the WDB, protects critical workforce development programs against the uncertainty of federal funding as well as local budget deficits.

## Prior-Year Carryover Funds

In addition to new revenues outlined below, the Year 26 Annual Plan includes prior-year carryover funding for WIOA, City General Fund, and Youth Service Corps funding streams. For PY 2025–26, the City anticipates a total of \$17.5 million in carryover amount from prior years. Table 1 below provides a list of new and carryover funding anticipated by funding streams in PY 2025–26.

**Table 1: Year 26 Annual Plan Revenues**

Funding Source	New Revenue for PY 2025–26	Carryover from Prior Year(s) for Carry-In Report	Total Allocation Available for PY 2025–26
WIOA Formula	\$43,291,518	\$5,276,008	\$48,567,526
WIOA Discretionary	\$1,000,000	\$1,010,383	\$2,010,383
City General Fund	\$7,770,598	\$8,301,873	\$16,072,471
County	\$10,205,100	\$110,098	\$10,315,198
Youth Service Corps (formerly CaliforniansForAll)	\$23,466,076	\$2,309,618	\$25,775,694
Other Grants/Funds	\$2,157,592	\$527,548	\$2,685,140
Anticipated Revenue	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$92,890,884</b>	<b>\$17,535,528</b>	<b>\$110,426,412</b>

The State Employment Development Department (EDD) has not announced its funding allocations for WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, and Rapid Response to Local Workforce Development Areas for PY 2025–26. The figures provided in the respective funding tables are estimates based on current-year funding levels.

Table 2 below provides a breakdown of WIOA funding streams, including Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, and Rapid Response funding. The following funding tables assume level funding. There is an anticipated \$318,320 increase in carryover funds.

**Table 2: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Formula Funding**

Funding Source	PY 2024–25 WIOA Funds	PY 2025–26 WIOA Funds*	Increase (Decrease)
Adult	\$16,039,523	\$16,039,523	\$-
Dislocated Worker	\$10,080,271	\$10,080,271	\$-
Youth	\$16,296,257	\$16,296,257	\$-
Rapid Response	\$875,467	\$875,467	\$-
Carryover	\$4,957,688	\$5,276,008	\$318,320
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$48,249,206</b>	<b>\$48,567,526</b>	<b>\$318,320</b>

Table 3 sets forth EWDD proposed WIOA funding distribution for WIOA oversight and administration activities, service providers, and supporting program activities.

**Table 3: WIOA Funding Distribution**

Activity	PY 2024–25	PY 2025–26	Increase (Decrease)	PY 2025–26 % Change
EWDD Oversight	\$7,358,301	\$7,813,054	\$454,753	6%
EWDD Direct Services	\$1,508,978	\$1,474,517	\$(34,461)	-2%
Workforce Development Board	\$1,582,590	\$1,426,131	\$(156,459)	-11%
Other City Departments	\$374,953	\$386,995	\$12,042	3%
WorkSource Centers	\$15,992,675	\$18,997,362	\$3,004,687	16%
YouthSource Centers	\$10,227,504	\$9,900,000	\$(327,504)	-3%
Other Service Providers	\$2,564,056	\$2,303,138	\$(260,918)	-11%
Supporting Program Activities	\$8,640,149	\$6,266,328	\$(2,373,821)	-38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$48,249,20</b>	<b>\$48,567,526</b>	<b>\$318,320</b>	

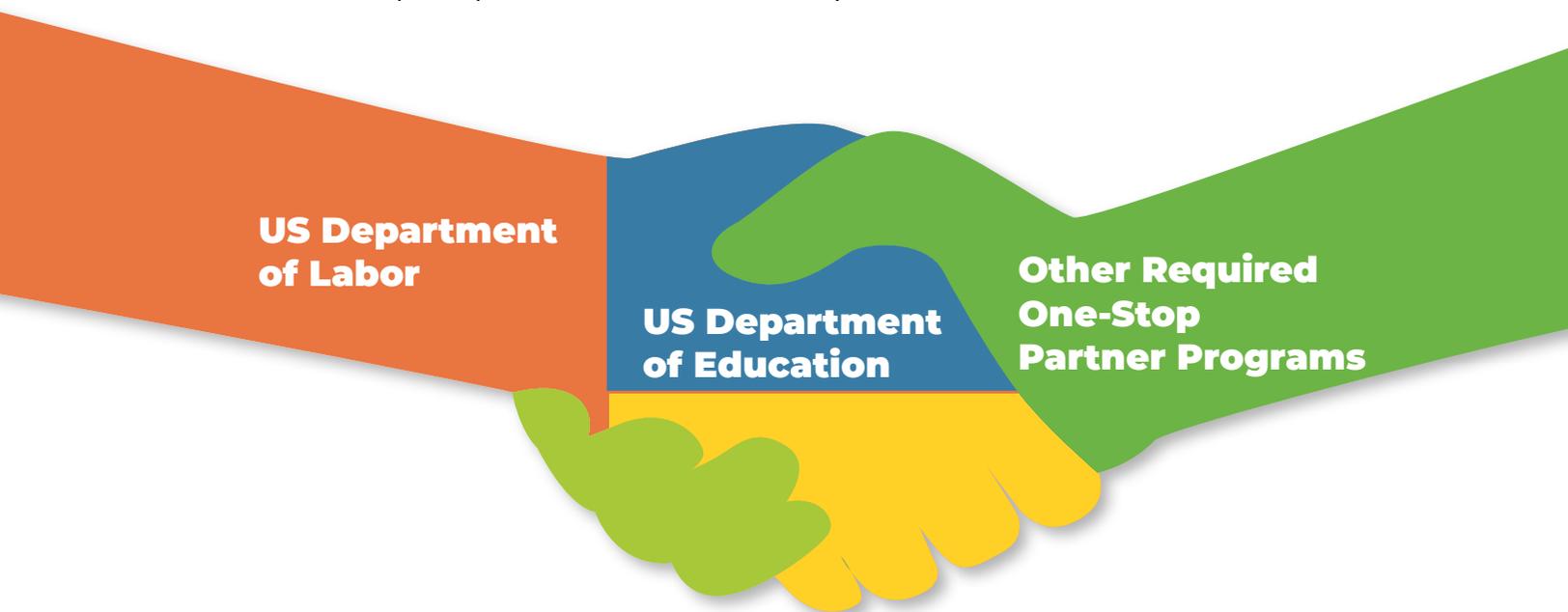
Table 4 below highlights Year 26 Annual Plan proposed funding, strategies, outcomes, and strategic goals. These efforts will provide employment services to Angelenos, as well as persons left out of the region’s economic recovery such as people experiencing homelessness (unhoused), disconnected youth, and reentry populations.

**Table 4: Year 26 Annual Plan Funding Highlights**

No.	Funding	Strategies	Outcomes	Strategic Goal(s)
1	\$18,997,362	Fund 14 WorkSource Centers	Serve 10,164	Focus on adult, dislocated workers, and services to employers.
2	\$11,550,000	Fund 14 YouthSource Centers	Serve 7,000	Focus on disconnected youth.
3	\$39,279,194	Year-Round Youth Work Experience Program (include City GF, County Youth@Work, Youth Service Corps)	Serve 4,741	Focus on disconnected youth.
4	\$5,002,987	LA:RISE	Serve 633	Address homelessness with more employment opportunities.
5	\$558,000	LA County INVEST	Serve 200	Focus on reentry population.
6	\$400,000	Layoff Aversion	Serve 300	Strengthen connections with major economic drivers in the region.
7	\$1,000,000	WDB Innovation Fund	TBD	TBD
8	\$763,763	Inside Safe Job Connectors Program	Serve 200	Address homelessness with more employment opportunities.

Reference Year 26 Annual Plan [Tab 3: Strategies and Activities](#), which supplements the proposed budget schedules for PY 2025–26 by providing a brief description of each of the proposed programs and activities to be funded in the upcoming fiscal year.

The **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** serves as the cornerstone federal legislation governing the US public workforce system in the United States, which encompasses various policies and programs designed to aid job seekers in their quest for employment through education, training, labor market information, career guidance, and related support services. WIOA funds are channeled through states to local workforce investment areas and are overseen by state and local workforce boards. A diverse array of entities—including adult basic education and GED programs, apprenticeships, community colleges, community-based organizations, labor unions, youth workforce providers, and employers—collaborate to deliver education and training services under WIOA. Targeting unemployed and underemployed adults, youth, veterans, unhoused individuals, people with disabilities, justice-involved individuals, and individuals receiving public benefits, WIOA endeavors to bolster workforce participation and economic mobility.



## WIOA Reauthorization

In December 2024, the US Congress introduced bipartisan legislation aimed to strengthen the nation’s workforce development system through *H.R. 6655—A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA)*, which would have reauthorized WIOA from 2025 through 2030. Authorization for WIOA expired in 2020, and Congress has extended its authorization through the annual appropriation process without meaningful updates. Lawmakers were hopeful that the bipartisan bill would pass before the end of the year, as it was included in a wider spending package. On December 19, 2024, however, Congress released a new draft of a continuing resolution (CR) to continue funding the federal government through March 14, 2025, which scrapped the legislation and did not reauthorize WIOA. On March 14, 2025, Congress and the White House approved a six-month CR to fund the federal government through September 30, 2025. The stopgap legislation freezes government funding at fiscal 2024 levels, with some increases for defense programs and major cuts to nondefense programs. **In short, ASWA aimed to improve the skills development of workers and strengthen connections between employers and the workforce system.** The bill proposed a new 40% training set-aside requirement for WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs with a 10% set-aside requirement for supportive services in WIOA Title I funds.

## **There is now some momentum in Congress on WIOA reauthorization in the new**

**legislative cycle.** On March 5, 2025, the House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held a hearing on Strengthening WIOA: Improving Outcomes for America’s Workforce.<sup>8</sup> The subcommittee chairman opened the hearing by noting, “A strong workforce development system is vital to growing our economy and providing economic opportunity for every American.” He highlighted that reforms to WIOA are needed to help the public workforce system realize this promise and indicated his strong support for ASWA. Members of the subcommittee noted the bipartisan support for workforce development and lauded many of the provisions contained in ASWA, especially provisions to help Opportunity Youth, young people ages 16 to 24 who are not in school and not employed. Throughout the hearing, both lawmakers on the subcommittee and witnesses voiced strong support for ASWA.

On April 23, 2025, the Trump Administration issued an executive order (EO) titled “Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future,” aimed at restructuring the federal workforce development system.<sup>9</sup> The EO tasks the secretaries of Labor, Commerce, and Education to review all federal workforce programs under their purview in the next 90 days. The cabinet leaders are then tasked with delivering a *Comprehensive Workforce Strategy* report that provides recommendations to restructure or eliminate “ineffective” programs and determine whether resources could be further realigned to address critical workforce needs.

**In more recent developments, President Trump’s 2026 budget proposal aims to combine 11 workforce programs administered by the US Department of Labor (DOL) into a single funding stream to states, called Make America Skilled Again (MASA).** The proposal cites that the current structure of formula and competitive programs, with their “attendant programmatic and performance requirements,” makes it administratively burdensome for states to respond to their workforce needs. The administration is requesting \$2.9 billion for the MASA grant, a 24% cut to current funding levels, with the following workforce programs being eliminated through the proposal: Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth state funds under WIOA; Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service state grants; Dislocated Worker National Reserve, including use for the Strengthening Community College Training Grants and Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities; YouthBuild; National Farmworker Jobs Program; Indian and Native American Programs; Reentry Employment Opportunities; and Workforce Data Quality Initiative. MASA would require states to dedicate 10% of funds under this consolidation to support registered apprenticeships—a modest increase in spending compared to DOL apprenticeship programs that would be eliminated through the grant consolidation.

**The reality is the budget makes deep cuts, risky consolidations, and rollbacks to critical supports that workers and businesses rely on.**<sup>10</sup> While apprenticeships receive modest attention, key investments in training, education, broadband, childcare, and equity are either eliminated or severely reduced. Under this proposal, states would have more control and flexibility to coordinate with employers and would have to spend at least 10% of their MASA grant on apprenticeships.

**“A strong workforce development system is vital to growing our economy and providing economic opportunity for every American.”**

# VII.

## Legislative Advocacy

**President Trump’s initial FY 2026 budget proposes to dramatically reduce nondefense discretionary investments, where workforce development and other domestic program funding is derived, by \$1.63 billion, or 22.6%, overall.<sup>11</sup>** The high-level budget information indicates that the president is proposing a \$4.6 billion reduction in funding for the DOL—a 35% cut over currently enacted levels. Current FY 2025 funding for workforce development programs under Title I of WIOA is currently \$5.67 billion, meaning that MASA likely represents a roughly 29% reduction in the federal investment for several workforce development programs under this portion of the budget. In addition, the budget request proposes to eliminate Job Corps, the Senior Community Service Employment Program, and Adult Education funding under Title II of WIOA. It is now up to the U.S. Congress to determine the budget and legislative priorities for workforce development programs in the 2026 Fiscal Year.

**The City’s WDB advocates for WIOA reauthorization and supports building a stronger workforce system that drives innovation, equity, and results for workers** and dismantles barriers to employment, prioritizes job quality, amplifies workers’ voices, and ensures economic opportunity for all without risking the tailored services that different workforce programs bring to the distinct populations and workers they serve.



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11. National Association of Workforce Boards. (2025, May 2). *President's FY26 Budget Proposes Deep Cuts to Workforce Development Programs*. <https://www.nawb.org/3752-2/>

**The complete Year 26 Annual Plan consists of the following documents:**



[Tab 1 – Plan Overview](#)

[Tab 2 – Budget Schedules](#)

[Tab 3 – Strategies and Activities](#)

[Tab 4 – Economic Forecast](#)

[Tab 5 – Policies](#)

[Tab 6 – Performance Evaluation](#)

[Tab 7 – Appendices](#)

# YEAR 26

# ANNUAL PLAN OVERVIEW

## CITY OF LOS ANGELES

### Program Year 2025-26



City of Los Angeles  
Economic and Workforce  
Development Department  
444 South Flower Street,  
14th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90071  
(213) 744-7300  
<https://ewdd.lacity.gov/>