



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOS ANGELES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD RECEIVES \$400,000 GRANT TO STRENGTHEN
RETAIL INDUSTRY CAREER SERVICES IN SOUTH LOS ANGELES**

Funding is part of a \$10.9 million grant awarded to The Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership

LOS ANGELES – Today The Chicago Cook Workforce Partners (The Partnership) with funding from the Walmart Foundation announced that the Los Angeles Workforce Development Board has been selected to receive a \$400,000 grant from as part of an effort to increase the economic mobility of workers in retail and adjacent sectors in South Los Angeles and around the U.S.

The Los Angeles Workforce Development Board is one of 10 Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) selected across the country to collectively form and implement new models of career services specific to retail – models that will serve as best practices for the approximately 550 WDBs in the U.S. that already provide career services, such as career coaching, soft skills training, specialized skills training and referrals to other resources. The funding is part of a \$10.9 million grant the Walmart Foundation made to The Partnership in March 2016.

The funding provided to Los Angeles Workforce Development Board from The Partnership will provide a variety of services to job seekers, including:

- Job readiness training customized to the retail sector, including helping jobseekers acquire the "soft skills" that are critical for workplace success such as teamwork, leadership, communication and conflict resolution.
- Job placement assistance, resume writing help and interviewing skills workshops.
- Post placement services to promote job retention.

Among the services Los Angeles Workforce Development Board will offer employers are:

- Serving as a point of contact for retail employers in the area for recruiting and training opportunities, including career tracks such as sales, customer service, logistics, merchandising/buying and management.
- Customized recruiting and screening and assistance in writing job descriptions for new positions.
- Employee retention assistance and improving the supply of qualified job candidates.

Approximately 50 people in South Los Angeles will benefit from The Partnership grant.



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“As one of the largest provider of jobs for the American workforce, the retail industry presents many opportunities for workers to grow and thrive,” said Kathleen McLaughlin, president of the Walmart Foundation and chief sustainability officer for Walmart. “Through our work with The Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, we are helping ensure that retail workers have the skills, training and education needed to build long-lasting careers.”

In February 2015, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation committed \$100 million over five years to strengthen the skills of the broader U.S. workforce by funding programs to create career paths in retail and related industries and train thousands of workers outside of Walmart. The two-year grant to The Partnership is the largest investment to date as part of Walmart and the Walmart Foundation’s Opportunity initiative, which aims to increase the economic mobility of workers in retail and adjacent sectors by working with nonprofits, educational institutions and government agencies to make it easier for frontline workers to move faster into middle skills roles.

For more information about the grant awarded to the Los Angeles Workforce Development Board, visit <http://workforceboard.org/about-us/funders-and-partners/grants> or <http://workforceboard.org/about-us/funders-and-partners/grants/wal-mart-foundation-grant>.

LOS ANGELES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD: The City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board (WDB) oversees the expenditure of more than \$68.7 million in public funds provided annually by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Board members are appointed by the Mayor from the leadership ranks of the education, economic development and organized labor fields as well as other key players in the Los Angeles economy.

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