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PRESS RELEASE

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***COALITION FOR RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES YOUTHSOURCE CENTER GRAND OPENING IN SOUTH  
LOS ANGELES***

The [Coalition for Responsible Community Development](#) (CRCD) is proud to announce the grand opening of the Vernon-Central Network YouthSource Center, sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD), in Council District 9. The celebration will take place 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on September 23, 2017 with a block party and family resource fair at the historic 28<sup>th</sup> Street YMCA in South Los Angeles at 1006 E. 28<sup>th</sup> St., Los Angeles, CA 90011.

The new Vernon-Central Network YouthSource Center is overseen by EWDD and is one of 14 centers citywide that offer educational and career readiness services for disconnected youth ages 16 to 24 who are neither in school nor working. CRCD, in partnership with All Peoples Community Center and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, operate the center.

“As the City partner to the Vernon-Central Network YouthSource Center, we are very excited about the renewed resources for young people to get back in school, to strengthen their skill set and help them and their families feel supported,” said EWDD General Manager Jan Perry.

YouthSource is a city-wide program open to young people ages 16-24. All services are FREE! Some of the opportunities our centers offer include:

- High School Diploma Support
- Paid Job Training
- Access to Tutoring
- Mentoring/Counseling
- College Preparation
- Job Skills Training

- Career Exploration
- Work Readiness

"With almost one-third of the population in Council District 9 under the age of 18, it is imperative that we create programs our youth need to thrive," said Councilman Curren Price. "I am delighted that we can implement services like those being offered at the Vernon-Central Network YouthSource Center because it positively impacts the lives of our young adults, giving them the tools and resources they need to fulfill their true potential. I want our youth to know they are a priority and the City of Los Angeles is investing in you because you are critical to the stabilization of future generations."

Individuals who complete the program will have the opportunity to work with the CRCD Team to develop a strategy to further support the program participate through strong partnerships with key employers and post-secondary institutions. The Vernon-Central Network WorkSource Center on the LATTC campus is operated by CRCD and will be working to provide training and job placement.

"We are very proud to partner with the City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department to open the Vernon-Central Network YouthSource Center in South Los Angeles," commented Mark Wilson, President of CRCD. "The Vernon-Central Network was established in 2008 with support from the Pfaffinger Foundation to help our at-risk youth people develop job readiness skills and take the next steps in obtaining a job and becoming self-sufficient. Our long-time partnerships with All Peoples Community Center, LA Conservation Corps and Los Angeles Trade Tech have formed the Vernon-Central Network as we work toward our common goal of a stronger South Los Angeles."

### **About Coalition for Responsible Community Development:**

CRCD was established in 2005 by community leaders to bring resources to underserved youth in South LA including workforce development & education programs, permanent supportive and affordable housing, and opportunities to serve and lead in their own neighborhoods. CRCD has connected more than 2,950 young people with diplomas, jobs, and housing; manages a combined investment of \$103MM in South LA real estate with our partners; and runs WorkSource and YouthSource centers that get low-income people into jobs and training. For more information, visit [coalitionrcd.org](http://coalitionrcd.org).

### **About EWDD:**

EWDD provides a broad range of programs designed to grow and improve Los Angeles' economy while building a well-trained and job-ready workforce. EWDD oversees 16 citywide youth development centers that offer educational and career readiness services for disconnected youth ages 16 to 24 who are neither in school nor working, 17 WorkSource Centers that offer a wide range of quality employment related assistance to job seekers and employers, and nine BusinessSource Centers that provide services including access to capital, business plan development, tax incentives/credits, business courses and training, employee hiring and workforce development to business owners or startups. Learn more by visiting <http://ewddlacity.com>.