



**Economic & Workforce
Development Department (EWDD) Weekly Updates**
NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 10, 2021

Success Stories



Helping small businesses survive COVID-19

SOUTH VALLEY BSC CONNECTS PLUMBER TO FUNDING

The South Valley BusinessSource Center helped Victor Perez (above), owner of Top Mechanical Plumbers, Inc. obtain funding to save four jobs and keep his business open during COVID-19. Top Mechanical Plumbers, Inc. is a licensed company specializing in plumbing services for new residential and commercial construction located in LA City Council District 7. In 2015, Victor decided to establish his own business after more than 20 years of experience working as a union plumber. His goal was to create more jobs in his community by hiring local project managers and certified plumbers. The company has worked on

residential homes, hospitals, schools, and gas stations projects, along with projects for larger scale companies such as Jiffy Lube, Starbucks, and 7-Eleven. During COVID-19, Victor was forced to close his business due to several contract cancellations. With no income coming in and debt accumulating, Victor had to give up his office and lay off his employees. In February 2021, Victor reached out to the South Valley BSC. Business coach Jessica Acevedo provided Victor extensive assistance applying for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) along with a detailed explanation on how to qualify for PPP Loan Forgiveness. Top Mechanical Plumbers, Inc. was approved for a \$27,210 PPP loan, which helped Victor revive his business from his home office. The funding helped him retain two full time job positions, an administrative position, and a certified plumber. "I would recommend the South Valley BusinessSource Center because it's an organization that takes their time to discuss your business needs and provide you with clear answers at no cost," he said. "They really try to help you as much as possible and answer your questions in a timely manner."

HELPING FORMER LAX EMPLOYEES

During COVID-19, the commercial aviation sector, hospitality and tourism industries experienced large reductions in revenue as a result of travel advisories, quarantines and the public's general fear of infection, according to the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). In partnership with Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), EWDD held a series of virtual Rapid Response sessions to assist employees who were impacted by the mass layoffs at LAX due to the pandemic. The sessions offered guidance to former employees on how to navigate filing for unemployment and connect them with vocational training opportunities to learn a new trade. This week's EWDD Updates includes two stories about former LAX employees who are now pursuing new careers.



WEST LA WSC SERVES UP NEW JOB FOR BANQUET WORKER

Michael, 58, had worked as a banquet coordinator at Hilton Hotel LAX for more than 14 years when he was laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After attending the Hilton Hotel's Rapid Response session, Michael (left) expressed his interest in changing careers to a more sustainable, high growth job. He said he was also interested in enhancing his computer skills and pursuing a career as a local commercial driver. At the West LA WorkSource Center, Michael worked with a career coach to explore job training options. He also received support services to cover his utility bills, which had piled up due to his job loss. The WSC center provided Michael with a new laptop so he could participate in virtual computer classes, virtual job interviews and recruitment events. Michael said he was very appreciative of all the help that he has received and looks forward to his upcoming training to become a truck driver. Michael also expressed his thanks to the WorkSource team for providing knowledgeable staff to help him through the job transition process. "I just wanted to thank you guys for your patience with me and helping me. I know I have a lot of work to do but yesterday when I came in there I was very nervous and [staff] made me feel more comfortable."



FORMER LAX SHUTTLE WORKER ON ROAD TO A NEW CAREER

After five years with Karmel Shuttle at LAX, Nicole lost her job due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nicole (front row, third from left), 40, attended a recruitment event held by Community Career Development, operator of the Wilshire Metro WorkSource Center. She learned about the Metro Bus Operations Training Academy, a two-week program at LA Valley College that prepares individuals to take the exam to become a bus operator with LA Metro. Nicole successfully passed the test, enrolled in Metro Bus Operator Training and received a certificate of completion. Nicole said she is very excited about her new journey and the support she received from Community Career Development. With tears of joy, Nicole shared how her training and support has raised her self-esteem, which she lost after she was laid off. Nicole, a single mom fell into a deep depression and worried about how she would find a career that would support her and her son that has special needs. With the help of the program, she has regained her confidence and has taken steps to find her own apartment and purchase a vehicle. Nicole is now in her final steps with Metro and is on the road to a career as a bus operator.

LINKS to COVID-19 RESOURCES

JOB RESOURCES

LA JOBS PORTAL: jobs.lajobsportal.org

VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS: bit.ly/LAjoblosshelp

BUSINESS RESOURCES

LA REGIONAL COVID FUND: lacovidfund.org

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM: ewddlacity.com/index.php/small-business-loans

LA CARES Corps: coronavirus.lacity.org/CARESCorps

BusinessSource Centers: bit.ly/LABusinessSource

WorkSource Centers: bit.ly/EWDDWorkSource

YouthSource Centers: bit.ly/EWDDYouthSource

EWDD Metrics

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

WORKSOURCE CENTER CONTACT PERFORMANCE (COVID-19) May 3, 2021 to April 30, 2021	
Number of walk-ins	1,197
Number of walk-ins by appointment	643
Number of call/emails	2,999
Number of calls regarding Unemployment Insurance (UI)	1,008

YOUTH WORKFORCE DATA FY 20-21 (HIRE LA'S YOUTH) Week ending May 7, 2021	
Number of applications	12,347
Number of youth in lottery pool	1,183
Number of youth enrolled	4,178
YouthSource Center (YSC) enrollments	1,330
YSC enrollment goal	1,932
Percent complete	68.84%

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

LOS ANGELES BUSINESSSOURCE CENTERS (LABSCs) METRICS May 3, 2021 to May 7, 2021	
LABSCs Reporting: North Valley, West Valley, South Valley, South LA, East LA, Mid City, Central West, Hollywood and Harbor	
Microenterprise assisted	91
Microenterprise enrolled	13
Small businesses assisted	31
Small businesses enrolled	2
Number of BSC Clients who attended virtual workshops	17
Sidewalk vendors assisted	12
Sidewalk vendors enrolled	5



The Economic & Workforce Development Department is headquartered in the Garland Building located at 7th street and Garland Ave in downtown Los Angeles.

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711 for TRS (TTY)

If TTY/TTD is needed to contact us, please use 711 for Telecommunication Relay Services (TRS)

If you have any questions, comments, or wish to have a contribution considered for inclusion in an upcoming "Updates," please feel free to contact Jamie Francisco at (213) 744-9048 or Jamie.Francisco@lacity.org.