



LOS ANGELES

# EWDD FAQs



## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **What does the Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD) do?**

EWDD supports economic development in Los Angeles by offering small and large business owners access to direct and indirect financing, loan assistance and a slate of informational workshops at nine BusinessSource Centers. EWDD and its contracting partners also run a network of 16 WorkSource Centers, offering job training and referrals. Additionally, EWDD helps young adults ages 14 to 24 prepare for college and the workforce at its 14 YouthSource Centers. The department also manages and leverages city-owned property assets with the goal of revitalizing neighborhoods, spurring economic activity and creating jobs. All of EWDD's services are free to qualifying clients.

### **When was EWDD established?**

EWDD was formed July 1, 2013 to support and grow Los Angeles' economic and workforce development in a manner that yields thriving businesses and a capable workforce. As envisioned by Mayor Eric Garcetti and the City Council, EWDD's highest priority is job creation through education, training, small business support, microenterprise incubation, business retention and attraction activities, neighborhood revitalization and project financing. Much of EWDD's current workforce previously worked in the discontinued Community Development Department (CDD).

### **Did EWDD take the place of the former Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA)?**

NO, EWDD did not take the place of the CRA/LA. However, with the dissolution of community redevelopment agencies statewide, EWDD is charged with managing, acquiring, disposing and leasing certain city-optioned property assets of the former

CRA/LA. EWDD does the same for certain other city-owned sites that present economic development value with a focus on job growth and retention, enhancing commercial activity, mixed-use development and other community serving activities. However, unlike the CRA/LA, EWDD does not have the ability to independently finance its activities through tax increment. EWDD, in partnership with the Mayor's Office and City Council, is exploring strategies to identify sustainable funding for economic development projects and programs.

### **What services are provided at a WorkSource Center?**

Clients are matched with a jobs counselor to create an employment plan. This plan could include a variety of services, including job training, improving language skills, practicing interviews and accessing business-ready attire. Job seekers also have free access to computers and printers to conduct their job searches. Each of the city's 16 WorkSource Centers focuses on high-growth industries, such as logistics, healthcare or green technology, to better prepare clients for the jobs of today. EWDD also offers two Job Portals, a smaller version of the WorkSource Centers, at the Central Library in Downtown Los Angeles and in South Los Angeles.

### **What services are provided at a YouthSource Center?**

YouthSource Centers offer one-on-one counseling to help youth ages 16 to 24 return to school, complete the high-school equivalency exam, or get a good paying job. Youth also receive career readiness services, such as how to write a resume, conduct a job interview and create a personal budget. Mentors encourage participants to sign up for the annual HIRELA's Youth program that provides six weeks of subsidized work. The HIRELA program, a partnership of the City and County of Los Angeles along with participating employers, provides real-work experience, creates networking opportunities and prepares youth for the discipline of college and career. In 2017, more than 17,500 Los Angeles youth obtained jobs through this program.

### **What services are available at a BusinessSource Center?**

Business owners can get help identifying and applying for working capital and specialized loans, writing a business plan, and learning about tax incentives and credits that will help them grow and improve their business. For employers, the centers host job fairs and offer retention services and organizational assessments. The partnership between the City's WorkSource and BusinessSource Centers also offers a ready-made and trained workforce for BusinessSource clients, providing employers an opportunity to hire local residents to staff their growing businesses.

**Does EWDD provide any other services?**

Yes. EWDD contracts with community-based nonprofits to operate seven Day Labor Centers. These centers help reduce the number of day laborers congregating on city streets by providing them with a safe location to gain job skills, ESL instruction, legal advocacy and workplace safety information.

*[Revised 3/11/19]*