

May 10, 2023

Gerardo Ruvalcaba
Assistant General Manager
Economic and Workforce Development Department
City of Los Angeles



Subject: COMMENTS PY 2023-24 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL PLAN

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the PY 23-24 Workforce Development Annual Plan. As you know, COVID-19 and its economic fallout have caused significant harm to many Los Angeles communities. As advocates for Los Angeles opportunity youth population, we appreciate the plan's workforce strategies for opportunity youth and particularly the subset of opportunity youth—system involved young adults.

The [2021 Data Report on the City of Los Angeles Opportunity Youth](#) highlights the sharp rise in opportunity youth (ages 16-24) who are neither in school nor at work. Specifically, **the most recent data available indicated a 38% increase** in the number of teens and young adults in the city **who are out of school and out of work** between 2019 and 2021 (49,000 and 62,000, respectively; American Community Survey). As a result, **this trend is reversing much of the progress we've made in the city over the past decade.**

[Strategies 1 and 2 in the draft plan](#) begin to address youth disconnection, and early program investments have and continue to be valuable. Given this substantial and pressing need, **we encourage the City of Los Angeles strengthen its role in the LA Performance Partnership Pilot (LA P3), facilitating collaboration among public educational, workforce, and support systems as well as the business community to address the needs of young adult to enter the workforce and educational opportunities.** These efforts will further help address the needs of young adults who are looking to enter the workforce and access educational opportunities, including specific strategies to boost these efforts could further enhance the plan.

Lastly, we challenge the City and County of Los Angeles workforce development systems to **prioritize all young adults who identify as homeless through LA Homeless Service Agency Youth Coordinated Entry System to receive prioritized services for workforce, education and support services needs while they are transitioning to permanent housing.** Currently, young adults experiencing housing insecurity often do not receive workforce, education, or support services until they are in stable housing situations. This means that many youths do not receive the crucial services they need when they need them. As a policy, the City and County should initiate assessments and begin providing all available workforce and education services as soon they request housing assistance at a coordinated entry point.

In partnership,

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Lauri Collier
Director | LA Opportunity Youth
Collaborative
Alliance for Children's Rights

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Sainz'.

Robert Sainz
President and CEO
New Ways to Work

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lauri Collier'.

Lauri Collier
Managing Director | California
Opportunity Youth Network
New Ways to Work

