

## **Executive Summary**

The City of Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board (WIB) is composed of 44 private and public sector leaders who, in collaboration with the Mayor and City Council, develop the City's workforce investment policy and oversee programs and initiatives generated by that policy and administered by the City's Community Development Department.

This Annual Plan presents both the policy direction and the implementation plan for the coming year. Creating this plan has not been an easy process because we have reduced federal funding coupled with increased need for both a skilled workforce for our businesses and better opportunities for our workers. Unfortunately, we cannot ignore the fact of reduced funding, but we have agreed, the Mayor and Council with us, that we also must not diminish the ambition of our agenda. Instead, we have to find ways to realign our resources, look for other sources of revenue, and create partnerships that will help us achieve our goals.

We are committed to creating pathways for City residents to find self-sufficiency and self-fulfillment through quality employment, at the same time as we respond to business demand for a local, skilled workforce. In the Plan Overview, you will see the strategic and policy priorities that support this commitment. Some of the specific strategies we have identified include:

- Continued development and implementation of sector-based initiatives. A national best practice, sector initiatives are effective because they leverage a variety of resources to respond to employer demand and create direct pipelines connecting low-skilled workers to quality jobs. More than just training programs, they establish ongoing relationships between target industries, labor, educators, community, and government that lead to future coordination of public and private investment. Building upon our experience with the successful Health Care Career Ladder Training Program, we plan to bring a sector-based approach to several new industries this year, while continuing to identify other key industries that provide living-wage jobs for entry-level workers.
- A strategic approach to better connecting workers and business to the diverse opportunities available through the city's workforce development system. Our WorkSource Center and OneSource networks will remain important to these efforts as we continue to improve the certification and funding processes based on performance measures. We will also focus on developing a stronger demand-driven approach to training, connecting workers to firms and industries which have a demonstrated need for trained workers and which reward their workers with living wages, benefits, and career ladders.
- Connecting youth with jobs. Young people who have experience with employment are more likely to stay in school and graduate. Therefore,

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connecting youth to jobs, even short-term summer jobs, is an important strategy in nurturing the next generation of skilled, self-sufficient workers.

- Commitment to expanding the WIB's role as a leader in workforce development in Los Angeles. We will seek to broaden our relationships with stakeholders in the community in order to leverage regional resources for workforce development, thus better serving business and workers. We will continue to work to enhance the visibility and understanding of opportunities and services provided by the WIB and the City's workforce development system among business leaders and job seekers.

The development of this Annual Plan would not have been possible without the input, hard work, and support of many people. The members and staff of the WIB and Youth Council and the management and staff of the Community Development Department want to express their gratitude for the contributions of everyone involved, as well as the leadership of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Councilmember Herb Wesson, Chair of the Housing, Community, and Economic Development Committee. We are excited about the coming year and look forward to helping the City of Los Angeles, the second largest workforce investment area in the nation, become a leader in workforce development.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Chair  
Workforce Investment Board

Richard Benbow  
General Manager  
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