

SOUTH BAY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
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3rd Quarterly Report Summary
Presented to the
South Bay Cities Council of Governments

This report summarizes the April 16, 2020, South Bay Workforce Investment Board's (SBWIB) meeting activities and program accomplishments during the 3rd Quarter of Program Year 2019-2020. As you are aware, the South Bay WIB is comprised of representatives from the eleven participating Cities of Hermosa Beach, Lawndale, El Segundo, Inglewood, Hawthorne, Redondo Beach, Carson, Manhattan Beach, Torrance, Lomita and Gardena for the delivery of employment and training services through its One-Stop Business and Career Centers.

***Impact of COVID-19** - The impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on the economic vitality and workforce of the greater South Bay area is affecting companies large and small as they contemplate closures, layoffs and furloughs for their employees. Last quarter, as businesses closed and layoffs were imposed due to COVID-19, the South Bay One-Stop Business & Career Centers were visited by an increasingly large number of individuals seeking assistance with employment and filing for unemployment insurance. The SBWIB operates four One-Stop Business & Career Service Centers located in Inglewood, Torrance, Gardena and Carson. For the safety of the public and to reduce the number of people in close proximity, the One-Stop Centers are currently offering services virtually or accepting in-person meetings by appointment only. A number of the South Bay WIB upcoming job fairs and business expos have also been canceled, including our annual Blueprint for Workplace Success Youth and Young Adults Job Fair. Job fairs and hiring events will remain postponed until it is safe to reconvene. Additionally, the Hawthorne and Inglewood Teen Centers are currently closed to the public. Complete cleaning and sanitizing at all South Bay WIB locations is ongoing and aligned with public safety priorities.

***Services offered by South Bay One-Stops** – Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the South Bay One-Stop Business & Career Centers are assisting about 60-75 laid-off workers apply for unemployment insurance benefits daily during the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Recruitments,

workshops, orientation/info sessions, case management, and career pathway counseling now offered virtually. Many clients have also crossed over in their short-term vocational training programs from the traditional seat-based instruction to distance learning platforms. The Job Development team is now conducting recruitments over Zoom and have begun to screen and refer applicants to essential service employers that are in desperate need of employees.

*The California Employment Development Department (EDD) recently awarded the South Bay Workforce Investment Board a \$995,500 grant to provide immediate job placement and training assistance to 180 COVID-19 related displaced and laid-off workers in the South Bay region over the next year. The grant funds will enable the SBWIB to provide a variety of career services that will assist dislocated workers, and eligible veterans with transitioning rapidly into employment programs and reenter the workforce.

*On February 27th, the SBWIB partnered with the City of Inglewood, the Inglewood/Airport Area Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to conduct the 39th Annual Job Shadow Day which allowed high school students to learn pre-employment skills and connect with professionals who have careers they hope to pursue in the future. Over 160 high school students participated and visited local companies including the 102.3 KJLH, Claris Health, the Employment Development Department, Kaiser Permanente, Petco, LaBella Chauffeurs, Turner Hunt Construction, Crowne Plaza, Inglewood Mortuary, New Image Dental, the Inglewood One-Stop Business & Career Center, the SBWIB and various departments at Inglewood City Hall.

*Last quarter, the South Bay WIB co-sponsored Centinela Valley Union High School District's 3rd Annual Career Fair. The Fair was held March 5th and was attended by more than 430 high school 11th and 12th graders from the District. Students had the opportunity to engage with representatives of businesses and nonprofit agencies based in the greater Los Angeles area and learn how they gained employment in their career field and what the students should do to better prepare themselves for the workplace. Students also participated in breakout sessions covering professional communication skills, work readiness, and financial literacy. The participating employers included the Los Angeles World Airport, Ritz Carlton, the Black Aerospace Workers Association, the Los

Angeles Fire Department, Arconic Fastening Systems, IBEW, American Red Cross, PRN Ambulance, CA Conservation Corps, FBI and FedEx.

*During the third quarter, the Carson Career Center hosted a targeted recruitment event for MFRG-ICON Construction and 9 subcontractors to recruit for the Carson Terrace Senior Apartment project. Subsequent second interviews and placements are now on hold due to the novel coronavirus.

*Under the Inglewood Community and Regional Engagement Violence Intervention Prevention (I-CARE VIP) Project, 102 at-risk youth were enrolled and provided with diversion and intervention services. Out of the enrollees, 84 have been provided with pre-employment training and paid internships. The I-CARE VIP Coalition is comprised of representatives from the City of Inglewood, the Inglewood Police Department, Inglewood Unified School District, Centinela Youth Services, and the SBWIB. The I-CARE project was recently awarded an additional \$1 million in funding through the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for three additional years. This will allow an additional 150 at risk youth to be served and also expand the eligible service area to include the City of Hawthorne.

*During the third quarter, the Carson Career Center partnered with the Hospital Association of Southern California and California State University, Dominguez Hills to provide the college's Clinical Lab Science program students with workforce services. The services provided include resume assistance, interview training, supportive services to cover licensing fees, and on-the-job-training opportunities.

*Last quarter, students from Hawthorne High School of Manufacturing & Engineering (HHSME) began manufacturing surgical mask ear savers in an effort to support local manufacturing needs, frontline healthcare workers, and first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students are overseeing production remotely through distance learning. HHSME is now gathering materials through the SoCal Makers COVID-19 Response team to start manufacturing protective face shields. The face shields will be distributed, along with the surgical face mask ear savers, to local hospitals. The South Bay WIB has provided HHSME with funding to continue manufacturing these vital items. Ear savers were provided to Centinela Hospital Medical Center, the Inglewood Police Department,

Torrance Memorial Hospital, Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center, and Hawthorne Police Department.

*The South Bay Workforce Investment Board has coordinated the delivery of thousands of bags to Centinela Valley Union High School District and Lawndale Elementary School District for their Grab & Go Meal Programs. Under these programs, thousands of breakfast and lunch meals are distributed daily to students and families affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The bags were purchased by the SBWIB and some were donated by Target.

*Last quarter, the South Bay WIB supplied the Hawthorne Police Department with face masks.

*35 high school seniors are currently enrolled in the South Bay WIB's Fit for Gold Tutoring & Fitness Academy. Youth will have the opportunity to make up to \$1,300 and be eligible for program scholarships. Under this program the high school seniors provide homework assistance, nutrition information, and physical fitness activities to students in grade 3rd – 8th.

*During the last quarter, the South Bay One-Stop's held 41 recruitment fairs in which hundreds of job seekers attended.

*This past quarter, the Carson Career Center took part in the Carson Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo. During the event, over 50 local residents were provided with information and resources regarding employment and job training services offered by the SBWIB.

*The South Bay WIB's Construction and Utilities Pathways program (CUPP) is a construction pre-apprenticeship program that connects individuals ages 18-24 with union representatives and also assists with job placement. CUPP orientations are held every other Friday at the Inglewood One-Stop or virtually to prepare individuals for upcoming construction projects. During the 3rd quarter, 267 job seekers attended the orientations which resulted in 244 returning to enroll in the program. A total of 53 individuals have been placed on a construction worksite or in an apprenticeship training program for the quarter.

*The Aero-Flex career pathway program wrapped up the West Los Angeles College California Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) Grant in January. The goal of the program was to enroll 100 pre-apprentices in the

advanced manufacturing sector. The grant ended with a total of 131 enrollments and 115 completions. The pre-apprentices ranged from high school and college students to incumbent workers. The SBWIB was recently awarded an additional \$50,000 from the County of Los Angeles, Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services to continue supporting this initiative. The new program goal is to enroll 15 youth who reside in the supervisorial 4th district with the end goal of permanent placement.

*A total of 225 youth from the South Bay region were enrolled in the WIOA year-round Youth Program; these individuals received pre-employment Blueprint for Workplace Success training and access to free occupational training based on their career interest. Other services included paid work experience at worksites in and around the South Bay region.

*The SBWIB's Bio-Flex initiative continues to progress as 21 additional South Bay students were enrolled in the Pre-Apprenticeship program during the 3rd quarter. The program includes three Tracks, Track I: Work Readiness – Blueprint from Workplace Success. Track II: Technical Skills Training on BioTech Primer and Track III: Career Exploration at Sakura Finetek. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and schools moving to remote learning, the delivery of Track III will be done via Zoom meetings with guest speakers from different Biotech companies as well as a representative from the Board of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' office.

*As part of the Youth at Work Jobs Program, 258 South Bay students were recruited for an opportunity to receive paid pre-employment training and 120 hours of paid work experience. Youth had a chance to earn up to \$1,590.

*South Bay One-Stop Business & Career Centers continue to conduct information sessions, intake, employment preparation workshops and job placement services for recently separating military personnel, incoming spouses and family members at the Los Angeles Air Force Base. Last quarter SBWIB staff assisted over 20 individuals.

*South Bay WIB staff continues to attend Chamber of Commerce events to market the business services available.

*Our totals for the third quarter reflect 75,523 visits to our South Bay One-Stop Business and Career Centers.

*During the third quarter, the South Bay One-Stop Business & Career Centers outreached to hundreds of businesses. Staff will continue to conduct monthly outreach to businesses throughout the South Bay to market SBWIB services available to meet their hiring and business needs.

*330 youth visited the Hawthorne and Inglewood Teen Centers during the third quarter.

*Last quarter, the Carson Business and Career Center co-hosted a senior tax preparation assistance workshop with the City of Carson. 46 Carson area seniors were assisted with filing their taxes.

*The U.S. Department of Labor awarded a \$12 million grant to the West Los Angeles College/SBWIB led collaborative to prepare and place 5,000 individuals into pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship roles in advanced manufacturing with a focus on the Aerospace and Bioscience industries over the next four years nationally under the Growing Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeships Across America (GAMAAA) program. This grant was the only one awarded to a California applicant and will support training of new hires and incumbent workers. The SBWIB is tasked with placing 1,500 apprentices with assistance from partners. In addition, the South Bay WIB is generating awareness of the GAMAAA program locally, as well as with workforce and employment development organizations in other parts of the nation such as South Carolina and Florida. The partners under this initiative include El Camino College, College of the Canyons, Aerojet Rocketdyne, Bachem, Impresa Aerospace, IBM, Magnetika, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Tesla, among others. Companies and participants interested in this opportunity may contact the SBWIB at (310) 970-7700 for additional information.

*Rapid Response services were provided to 19 South Bay companies that employ 2,260 individuals who were affected by layoffs/closures during the 3rd Quarter of Program Year 2019-2020. Staff completed orientations regarding One-Stop services, Covered California, financial services in addition to information regarding unemployment insurance benefits.

*Last quarter, the SBWIB received a total of 118 WARN notices from South Bay area employers indicating that 13,087 individuals were being laid off due to the novel coronavirus. Some of the employers include Burke Williams, Burlington, Macy's, Hollywood Park Casino, El Torito's,

Robinson Helicopter, Motorcar Parts of America and Western Dental Services, Inc. The SBWIB's Rapid Response team made contact with the employers to provide orientations and assistance virtually.

*Inglewood-based employer, Burke Williams a luxury day spa with eleven locations throughout California including a facility in Torrance, filed a WARN notice in early March with approximately 1,300 positions affected including administrative, all spa personnel, and warehouse operations. Due to the public health directives released in early March, Burke Williams executives quickly realized that the changing conditions left a small window of opportunity for online sales and distribution of their signature product line. This created immediate layoff aversion and employment opportunities for a small group of individuals and somehow sustained operations. The Inglewood and Gardena One-Stop staff quickly provided on-the-job training activities and services to 7 Inglewood and Gardena residents in the Burke Williams' warehouse, with the goal of focusing on online sales and product distribution.

*The South Bay WIB and El Camino College were awarded a \$500,000 California Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) grant to register three apprenticeship occupations with the Department of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) and to enroll 50 apprentices. The Apprenticeship standards were submitted to the Department of Labor last quarter and include two occupations; Production Technician and Maintenance Technician. Once the standards have been approved by the DOL, they will be submitted for approval to the DAS. The work plan for the third occupation, Quality Assurance Specialist, is being reviewed by the Advisory Committee.



Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor, Second District

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[Fortifying the Pipeline for LA County's Bioscience Workforce](#)



(Left to Right) Bio-Flex Graduates Emily Soriano, Vera Hutchings, Gabriel Sianez, and Andrea Morando

Nineteen high school students from Compton Manuel Dominguez High School graduated from the Bio-Flex Pre-apprenticeship program, created to expose and offer high school and college students' hands-on experience at a Bioscience company. The program is a flexible, yet structured career pathway for the next generation of Bioscience workers in LA County. So far, more than 75 students have graduated from the Bio-Flex program after being placed with companies such as Takeda, Oak Crest Institute of Science, Protomer Technologies, and Pasadena Bio Collaborative Incubator.

Bio-Flex Graduate Vera Hutchings



“Thank you for giving me this amazing opportunity to be a part of the Bio-Flex program. I see myself working in the forensic science department in the near future and I would like to thank this program for giving me the opportunity to see different types of career choices. My favorite part of the program was getting to meet people from different companies and understanding their stories and seeing how they work.” – Bio-Flex Graduate Vera Hutchings

In 2015, in a motion authored by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, he directed the County of Los Angeles to study key industries for job growth and economic development. The result was the development of a Countywide Bioscience initiative that included the formation of the Bio-Flex program to create pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship training opportunities for underrepresented communities.

“Bio and life sciences have seen tremendous growth over the past several years, particularly in LA, where the industry outpaced the economy during the last economic slowdown,” said David J. Whelan, Chief Executive Officer of BioscienceLA, the regional innovation catalyst seeded by the Bioscience Initiative. “Today, as we weather both healthcare and economic crises, the industry is poised for significant expansion, which will create numerous new jobs in the LA region, which will in turn require new training and development programs. We are building the future of health innovation today through programs like Bio-Flex.”

In a partnership that includes the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), and the County of Los Angeles Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services Department (WDACS), El Camino College, West Los Angeles College, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, Cal State Dominguez Hills, BioCom, RxRS Foundation, and Training Funding Partners, this innovative workforce pipeline program has worked to increase diversity in the Bioscience sector by training the next generation for bioscience jobs that include lab coat careers as well as manufacturing careers such as production, equipment and quality control technician.



Bio-Flex Graduate Gabriel Sianez

“I am grateful to have been in this Bio-Flex program! If you’re looking to soon be employed, I recommend this program as it strengthened my skills and confidence! This program has opened up my eyes even more in this field which I seek to pursue.” – Bio-Flex Graduate Gabriel Sianez

The Compton cohort of Bio-Flex students from Manuel Dominguez High School represent the most diverse class yet to graduate from this program. The graduating class was composed of all students of color, which included seventeen females and two males. They were exposed to employer-approved online training courses providing skills needed to succeed in the life science field. This year’s student program concluded with a virtual career day featuring a remote tour of the new BioLabs at The Lundquist Institute, along with a discussion

on career pathways and a tour from the PolyPeptide Group, a company that manufactures and develops peptide active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in Torrance.

The Compton High School teacher who leads the class, Dr. Olushina Oshinuga, said “The students who participated and completed the Bio-Flex program saw the great opportunity presented, and they were not afraid to go after it. They were determined to succeed.”



Bio-Flex Graduate Andrea Morando

“I want to thank Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and the South Bay Workforce Investment Board for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the Bio-Flex Program. My knowledge has increased so much day by day, especially helping me be prepared for an actual job interview. I had so much fun and gained greater knowledge. Thank you.” – Bio-Flex Graduate Andrea Morando

Recently, SBWIB received approval from the United States Department of Labor to register two apprenticeship occupations, Bio-Manufacturing/Production Technician and Biomedical Equipment Technician. A Bio-Manufacturing/Production Technician or Assistant works in the lab and adheres to standard operating procedures to safely mix, inspect, and test bio-medical goods. The Biomedical Equipment Technician inspects and tests malfunctioning medical or related equipment, following manufacturers’ specifications and using test and analysis instruments.

The apprenticeships have been approved for ages as young as 17 years old. It will be up to the bioscience employer to decide what age to hire but creating an apprenticeship that allows youth to become an apprentice is a unique and innovative feature of these non-traditional apprenticeship models. SBWIB engaged several employers who are participating in the Bio-Flex program and have helped to craft the design of the training plans. One of these employers includes Bachem Americas, a company that manufactures API’s as well as innovative biochemicals for research purposes. Bachem has expressed interest in taking on an apprentice along with many other employers such as Thermo Fisher Scientific, Freudenberg Medical, Sakura, Takeda, Oak Crest Institute, Protomer Technologies and Pasadena Bio Collaborative Incubator.

“It has been a pleasure to work with the Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas to set up the Bio-Flex program. These new apprenticeship models will provide so many fantastic career opportunities for young people throughout our community for years to come,” said Jan Vogel, SBWIB Executive Director.

Youth interested in an exciting bioscience career should visit the Bio-Flex website <https://www.sbwib.org/bioflex> for more information and apply for an apprenticeship using the South Bay WIB’s [resume portal](#).



NEWS

South Bay Workforce Investment Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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June 12, 2020

Contact: Jan Vogel 310-970-7700

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AWARDS \$1.3 MILLION YOUTHBUILD GRANT TO
SOUTH BAY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD LED - COALITION TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC,
OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH**

HAWTHORNE – The U.S. Department of Labor announced the award of \$1.3 million in YouthBuild grant funds to the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) and its partners, YouthBuild Charter School of California and Habitat For Humanity of Greater Los Angeles. The funds will support academic, occupational skills and leadership training for at-risk out-of-school youth in South Bay communities. All youth will engage in low-income housing construction or rehabilitation projects in Los Angeles County regions that are in dire need of livable, affordable housing. YouthBuild Charter School of California will also conduct the academic skills curriculum that will enable participants to successfully earn a high school diploma.

“We are grateful to once again be recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor with this much needed grant award,” said Jan Vogel, SBWIB Executive Director. “After they complete occupational skills training and earn industry-recognized certifications, these YouthBuild participants will be able to secure good paying jobs and get on a path to self-sufficiency,” he concluded.

The SBWIB YouthBuild career pathway program provides a seamless progression from education to work-based training that includes classroom instruction and occupational skills training in construction building trades for youth ages 16 to 24 at approved work sites managed by Habitat for Humanity. The YouthBuild participants are low income, have either been in the juvenile justice system, or have aged out of foster care and have dropped out of high school or are otherwise at-risk of failing to reach key educational and career milestones.

Following the construction training students may continue their pathway in construction or if interested, pursue other jobs and will be provided options to explore careers in aerospace manufacturing or bioscience through a newly designed pre apprenticeship program offered at the SBWIB called, Aero-Flex and Bio-Flex. Students choosing to enter the program will earn certificates from the SBWIB and the Society of Manufacturing Engineer’s ToolingU program.

SBWIB serves South Bay communities through its four South Bay One-Stop Business and Career Centers in Inglewood, Gardena, Carson and Torrance. Visit www.sbwib.org for a complete listing of no cost services available to businesses and job seekers. Contact the YouthBuild team at (310) 225-3060 for application information.

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PRESS RELEASE

June 11, 2020

South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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**South Bay Workforce Investment Board Receives
\$800,000 Grant to Provide COVID-19 Employment Recovery
Services Throughout the Region**

HAWTHORNE – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) has awarded the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) an \$800,000 grant to provide employment recovery services, including job training and placement for workers displaced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic over the next 24 months.

A minimum of 145 affected workers, who are unlikely to return to their previous occupations, will receive services. Those individuals will be placed into jobs with new employers aligning with their transferable skills.

Customized hiring fairs with employers will be coordinated as rapid reemployment is critical for most of them. SBWIB will encourage and coordinate job recruitments and on-line/virtual hiring events.

Since March, there have been a growing number of large employers filing a layoff notice with the SBWIB in the South Bay region. Those companies facing mass job dislocation and closures has impacted over 21,000 workers in the area and includes many industry sectors such as manufacturing, transportation, and entertainment. Many other small businesses and those referred to as non-essential have been forced to close due to the recent Stay Home Order.

“We have extensive experience in administering national dislocated worker and emergency programs,” said SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel. “Our capabilities and knowledge of how to service this targeted population is demonstrated by our successful management of these projects in the past and I am hopeful we will be able to re-employ all of these people quickly,” he added.

SBWIB serves 11 South Bay communities through its four South Bay One-Stop Business and Career Centers in Inglewood, Gardena, Carson and Torrance. Visit www.sbwib.org for a complete listing of no cost services available to businesses and job seekers.

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