



**CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA
REPORT TO THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION**

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Workforce Development Section Activity Report

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE ACTION

Item Type: Report Only

Approved for April 21, 2025 **calendar**

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

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Reviewed by:

RECOMMENDATION

This report is provided for information only.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Workforce Development Section, comprised of the Verdugo Workforce Development Board (VWDB), Verdugo Jobs Center (VJC) and Glendale Youth Alliance (GYA), provides employment and training assistance for adults and youth who are unemployed, looking for their first job or a career change and/or skills training. We also provide services to the business community which includes recruitment, job placement and assistance with layoffs. This section is grant funded primarily through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) Act of 2014.

We continue to provide services virtually and in person and work collaboratively with the State of California's Employment Development Department to address questions related to Unemployment Insurance. Our office is located at 1255 South Central Avenue, Glendale, CA 91204. In addition to our on-site partner, this section collaborates with various organizations and educational institutions to provide comprehensive employment services to the community.

Every fiscal year, this section has renewed grants and grant outcomes we must achieve by June 30, 2025. Listed below are federal requirements, events, programs and/or new grants for the Workforce Development Section for FY 2024-2025:

Life Sciences Career Expo

The Verdugo Workforce Development Board, in partnership with Biocom California Institute, invites Greater Los Angeles life science employers and job seekers to the Life Science Career Expo on April 23, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Verdugo Jobs Center, located at 1255 S Central Ave, Glendale, CA 92104. This groundbreaking event is tailored exclusively for Greater Los Angeles life science employers seeking top-tier talent and will include a dedicated job fair, alongside engaging educational sessions thoughtfully curated for job seekers. Registration is available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/greater-la-life-science-career-expo-tickets-1229389961469>.

Verdugo Jobs Center (VJC) Services

The VJC is assisting approximately 65 clients a week who request information on VJC and partner agency services, and employment services, such as job search assistance or skills upgrade via vocational training. Staff have enrolled 163 clients, who have various barriers to employment or have recently been laid off, for skills training, surpassing the goal of 150 enrollments. Barriers include individuals with disabilities, individuals who are low income, homeless and English language learners, as well as justice touched clients.

Staff continue to recruit clients who have been laid off from Caltech/JPL to whom we can offer workforce services, such as skills upgrading and job search assistance.

The second cohort for Early Childhood Education (ECE) pre-apprenticeship and Transitional Jobs started in February 2025. Staff enrolled 20 low-income and English Language Learners in early childhood education training at Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC) and placed them at a

worksite, where they will be working as Teacher's Assistants making \$17.28/hr. for up to 150 hours. Once they complete their initial 6 units, they will move into the ECE Apprenticeship program at LAMC while they continue to work at a day care center in an unsubsidized position.

The Los Angeles Basin Regional Planning Unit (LABRPU), a partnership between all seven (7) workforce development boards, developed a plan for partnering with community colleges to increase positive employment outcomes for barriered populations in the region through the Regional Equity and Recovery Partnership Program (RERP). The goal is to enroll and provide career services to RERP participants who will be exposed to careers in the biotech industry. Each student who has taken at least 2 classes in biotech industry and is on the path to take the BioTC certification test will receive approximately \$3,600 in stipends from VWDB. Staff at VJC have enrolled 43 out of 45 students and have processed stipends.

The VJC has received new funds from Los Angeles County Department of Employment Opportunity to assist individuals who were laid off due to the Wildfires. Anyone who lost their job due to the wildfires qualifies to receive training, supportive services, stipends and incentives based on their needs and program design. The staff are in the process of finalizing marketing and recruitment materials and are conducting outreach to recruit clients.

Rapid Response and Layoff Aversion Activities

The staff continues to receive WARN notices on businesses laying off and are outreaching to the companies to provide services for the affected employees.

The staff have made multiple outreach attempts to JoAnn Fabrics with stores in Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. According to a CNN article, 500 out of 800 stores will close in all 50 states. The staff connected with the site supervisors and assistant managers and have left materials for the affected employees, but the site has not agreed on a Rapid Response orientation date yet.

Entertainment Partners in Burbank has sent a WARN in March, informing that they will be laying off 73 employees. Staff have made several attempts to connect with the company but have not received any call backs. Staff continue to follow up with the business.

Staff were notified of possible layoffs in Glendale Unified School District (GUSD) in mid-March. In program year 2025-2026 there may be layoffs of school psychologists, secondary teachers, psychological service providers and multimedia library technology assistants. Staff is monitoring GUSD and any information related to the layoffs.

The VJC Rapid Response coordinator participated in a virtual statewide zoom session hosted by the California Federation of Labor Unions for federal workers that have been/or may be laid off. The session provided essential information and support to workers who had been laid off. Information on healthcare coverage and other benefits, unemployment insurance and how to file for assistance, expanding job skills through training and educational programs, career guidance, job search and placement assistance were covered in the session. The VJC is working on putting together a similar information session for employees affected by the federal layoffs in the Verdugo region.

Glendale Youth Alliance (GYA) Youth Programs

Glendale Youth Alliance is currently recruiting youth ages 14 to 24 for the upcoming Summer Youth Employment Program.

The younger youth ages 14-16 will participate in the Summer Brush Clearance Program, helping to prevent wildfires by maintaining local hillsides, while older youth will be matched with job opportunities aligned with their career goals and interests.

All youth will receive 160 hours of paid experience, as well as training, case management and supportive services tailored to their needs. Interested youth may apply online at GlendaleYouthAlliance.com.

GYA has been awarded \$28,040 through the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) 5 grant provided by the City of Glendale's Homeless Services. This critical funding will directly support GYA's Homeless Diversion Program allowing us to provide hotel vouchers for homeless youth who are in immediate need of shelter. Additionally, GYA will provide case management, assist youth in securing employment opportunities, help them transition into permanent housing, and connect them with essential supportive services.

GYA Fundraising Events

GYA will be holding its Charity Golf Tournament on April 28, 2025, at Brookside Golf Club in Pasadena. The Ellis Family Store has generously donated a brand-new Jeep Compass for the Hole-in-One Contest. Everyone is invited, and more information can be found on the GYA website.

Additionally, GYA is participating in the Glendale Kiwanis Incredible Duck Splash fundraiser; 50% of all duck sales will go back to GYA.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

EXHIBITS

N/A