

Communication from Public

Name: Luz Castro

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Comments for Public Posting: Dear Members of the Council: My name is Luz Castro, Associate Director of Policy at Inclusive Action for the City. I am writing to express our strong support for the WE FUND program, as outlined in the Community Investment for Families Department's report. After the January fires, many workers in Los Angeles lost not only their homes but also their jobs. These include gardeners, street vendors, housekeepers, and domestic workers— many of whom were already living paycheck to paycheck. Now, they face even greater financial insecurity, with limited or no access to federal aid, especially for undocumented immigrants. Without a safety net, these workers face immense financial insecurity and daily uncertainty about meeting even their most basic needs. While community organizations like ours have stepped up to provide emergency relief, that support alone is not enough. A guaranteed income program like WE FUND is essential to ensure workers experience a truly equitable recovery— one that provides both immediate relief and long-term stability. These workers are the backbone of our city, yet they are often left out of traditional disaster response efforts. As we have transitioned from fire response to recovery and rebuilding, disasters like the Los Angeles wildfires and windstorms present an opportunity to redefine how we support our most vulnerable communities. We have a chance to set a new precedent — one that centers equity, acknowledges the true scope of the crisis, and ensures every impacted worker has the support they need to rebuild their life with dignity. That's why I urge this committee to fund the WE FUND program at the highest possible level. It is more than financial assistance. It is a pathway to security, resilience, and renewed hope for workers who keep our city running but are too often left behind in recovery efforts. Thank you.