

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

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ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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KAREN BASS
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October 1, 2025

Council File Number: 25-0886

Council Districts: All
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The Honorable Karen Bass
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Room 303, City Hall

City Council
c/o City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall

Attention: Economic Development and Jobs Committee

TRANSMITTAL: REPORT BACK FROM THE ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN RESPONSE TO COUNCIL MOTION REGARDING IMPACT OF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ON THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS PROCESSED AND SERVICES PROVIDED VIA THE FAMILYSOURCE, BUSINESSOURCE, WORKSOURCE, AND YOUTHSOURCE CENTERS

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager of the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) respectfully requests that the City Council:

1. NOTE and FILE this report, as it is provided for informational purposes only, and no Council action is necessary.

FISCAL IMPACT

This report does not impact the General Fund.

BACKGROUND

On August 6, 2025, the Economic Development and Jobs Committee considered a Motion by Councilmember Ysabel Jurado, 14th District (Council File Number 25-0886), relative to the impact of federal immigration enforcement on the number of individuals processed and services provided via the FamilySource Centers (FSC), BusinessSource Centers (BSC), WorkSource Centers (WSC), and YouthSource Centers (YSC).

This WIOA Title I financially assisted program or activity is an equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

The Motion directed the Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD) and the EWDD to provide a report with the following information:

- List of all populations served and services offered by the Source Centers;
- Historical numbers per Source Center type, dating back to at least summer 2023;
- Current year numbers per Source Center type;
- Any data, anecdotal or otherwise, on reasons for any downturn in individuals processed and services provided this summer; and
- Recommendations for increasing accessibility of Source Center programming to populations impacted by federal immigration enforcement moving forward, including expanding online or in-home services.

The following report pertains to the BSCs, WSCs, and YSCs administered by EWDD. The CIFD will report on the FSCs.

DISCUSSION

EWDD provides a broad range of programs that offer assistance in business support, employment, and youth development. All programs are designed to grow and improve Los Angeles' economy while building a well-trained and job-ready workforce. During times of City of Los Angeles (City) emergencies, EWDD has provided economic relief programs.

EWDD currently administers 10 BSCs, 14 WSCs, 14 YSCs, and 7 Day Labor Centers (DLC).

BusinessSource Centers

The City's 10 BSCs provide free business services and technical assistance, and an array of resources such as access to capital, business plan development, tax incentives and credits, business courses and training, employee hiring, and workforce development to small businesses and microenterprises.

WorkSource Centers

The City's 14 WSCs offer a wide range of free employment-related assistance to job seekers and employers, such as literacy skills, training, referrals, job listings, and placement with an emphasis on high-growth industries to build and support a qualified workforce in Los Angeles. Job Portals, smaller versions of the WSCs, are located in select City libraries and other locations.

YouthSource Centers

The City's 14 YSCs offer free educational and career readiness services for disconnected youth ages 14–24 who are neither in school nor working.

The WSCs and YSCs are primarily funded using federal dollars awarded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) from the US Department of Labor (DOL). Programs funded under WIOA come with very specific eligibility requirements and guidelines, which include the collection of work authorization documentation that support whether an individual is authorized to work in the United States.

Day Labor Centers

The City's 7 DLCs offer economic and social support to day laborers and low-income workers in Los Angeles. Their main objective is to assist unemployed, underemployed, and low-income laborers in finding stable employment. The DLCs also promote immigrant integration and provide educational resources to help individuals secure permanent jobs.

Actions Taken by EWDD Following Increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement Activity

During the months in which the immigration enforcement/raids started in the City, EWDD took the following action to assess impact and needs:

- Monitored service activity of its Source Centers and regular programming;
- Shared “Know Your Rights” information and resources;
- Provided referrals to non-profit organizations supporting immigrant families;
- Collaborated with County and City departments to leverage outreach efforts;
- Conducted outreach to businesses potentially impacted by the immigration raids and resulting civil unrest/protests; and
- Launched a pilot training program to support impacted youth and their communities.

Recommendations, outlined at the end of this report, for increasing accessibility of the City's Source Center programming to populations impacted by federal immigration enforcement moving forward, including expanding online or in-home services, stem from these prior efforts, and from feedback received from EWDD contracted Source Centers and strategic partners.

Populations Served and Services Offered by the Source Centers

BusinessSource Centers

In partnership with community-based organizations, EWDD operates 10 BSCs across the City. Each BSC offers a wide range of direct services, technical assistance, and resources to help emerging entrepreneurs as well as established local businesses reach the next stage of growth. Services include business courses, compliance consultation, job creation/retention, and access to capital.

WorkSource Centers

EWDD operates 14 WSCs across the City. WSCs offer career services and vocational training services that support job seekers to secure gainful employment and local employers to develop talent pipelines. WSCs promote equity and access to economic opportunity for Angelenos with the highest barriers to employment, including:

- Veterans
- Individuals with Disability

- Individuals Experiencing Homelessness
- Opportunity Youth
- Older Workers
- Re-Entry/Formerly Incarcerated Population

Services are delivered in collaboration with a network of strategic partners with workforce, education, and social service partners that leverage federal, state, local, and philanthropic funding to provide wrap-around services for workforce participants. Strategic partners include:

- The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD)
- Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) - Division of Adult and Career Education
- California Employment Development Department (EDD)
- California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- Los Angeles Department on Aging (DOG)
- Robert's Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) and its Social Enterprise Network
- BusinessSource System
- Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC)

YouthSource Centers

EWDD operates 14 YSCs across the City. YSCs provide education, career services, including work experience to youth ages 14–24. The YouthSource System works to reconnect Opportunity Youth (OY) (16–24-year-olds that are not engaged in work or education) as well as at-risk youth such as Transition Age Youth, probation, homeless/housing unstable, and single-parents into education and/or employment. Much like the WSC system, the YSC system works to improve education and employment outcomes for OY through regional cross-sector collaboration that includes more than 100 strategic partners, including:

- Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD)
- Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)
- Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative (LAOYC)
- ReLAY Institute – CSUN (ReLAY)
- Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)
- Los Angeles Youth Development Department (YDD)

The strategic partnership led by EWDD, in partnership with the LAOYC seeks to reduce the number of disconnected youth across LA County by 32,000 under the Horizons 32k Strategic Plan.

Day Laborer Centers

The Day Labor Resource Center Program provides economic and social opportunities to day laborers, immigrant, and non-immigrant low-income workers, and to develop economic self-sustainability strategies in the Los Angeles areas served by the program. There are currently a total of 7 day laborer sites which provide services to day laborers seeking employment, including those who are unemployed or underemployed and live at, near, or below federal poverty levels. A secondary purpose is to promote immigrant integration and create educational opportunities to transition away from temporary employment.

DLCs help customers process wage theft claims to recover unpaid wages. The DLCs provide information and referrals, such as for housing assistance, temporary shelter, and medical care. They also offer educational seminars, English language development courses, computer literacy, financial literacy/money management, job placement, legal services, and multi-benefit screening.

Historical Numbers Per Source System and Type

Table 1: Historical Numbers and Current Year Service Levels - WSCs, YSCs, and DLCs

Source Center	2023 (June- August)	2024 (June-August)	2025 (June-August)
WorkSource	6,498	6,747	5,503
YouthSource	1,886	1,836	1,964
Day Labor	1,405	1,540	1,149

Table 2: Historical Numbers and Current Year Enrollment Numbers – Business Source

Source Center	2023 (June- August)	2024 (June-August)	2025 (June-August)
BusinessSource	371	477	346

Reasons for Any Downturn in Individuals and Services Provided During the Months of June–August 2025

BusinessSource Centers

Data indicate that there was a decrease in the total number of businesses enrolled with the BSCs compared to the two prior years. Program enrollment is a key indicator of the effectiveness of the program and the health of the small business community. A decline in enrollment could signify several potential issues, including fear of immigration exposure. Heightened enforcement can cause potential clients to avoid programs that require registration, personal information, or business documentation.

Anecdotally, some of the BSC Managers reported that many sidewalk vendors were

hesitant to vend on the street and that some restaurants had to close to protect their employees or because employees were fearful of coming into work. A few BSC Managers expressed that some employees were hesitant to complete program forms due to uncertainty about whether personal information would be shared with immigration or other governmental authorities.

One key service of the BSC system is the centralized services component. BSCs can refer businesses to a small business legal assistance centralized service provider to assist them with a variety of legal questions, including employment and contract consultations. BSCs engaged with the provider to host ongoing “Know Your Rights” workshops for their clients. During this period of increased immigration enforcement, EWDD also shared an invitation with the BSCs to participate in a “Know Your Rights for Nonprofits” training.

Services and training were made available remotely after the COVID-19 epidemic to ensure that communities continued to receive critical information and support despite public health restrictions. BSCs continue to promote the use of remote services and are also available to meet clients at their place of business when needed. This approach of meeting with clients where they work, at convenient times, and in their preferred language is facilitated across the system.

WorkSource and YouthSource Centers

The data indicate that, during the months of June–August 2025, there was a notable decrease in the total number of WSC enrollments from the prior year. During the same period, there was an increase in the total number of YSC enrollments compared to the two prior years.

It should be noted that the first quarter enrollment months (July–September) may not be a true indicator of impact. June marks the end of the program year when most service activity has concluded, and July marks the start of a new program year when programs are just gearing up.

Feedback from the WSCs and YSCs, however, does indicate that there was a noticeable decrease in foot traffic or in-person participation during June–August. The reduction in foot traffic coincides with the federal immigration activity, as well as the military presence and the civil unrest that resulted.

Additionally, increased enrollments in the YSC System programs may also reflect the increased financial burden faced by many youth, especially those from mixed immigration status families, as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity has prevented many immigrant heads of households from working. Further analysis is required before reaching concrete conclusions.

Day Labor Centers

The 7 DLCs have been at the epicenter of ICE activity, with several of the sites reporting multiple raids. Service providers have shared that program participants and in the case of select DLCs, staff have been arrested by ICE. The raids have resulted in decreased participation by both participants and employers, with one center reporting a 90% drop in individuals seeking employment.

In addition to the ongoing enforcement actions, the latest Supreme Court's ruling in *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo* (September 8, 2025) has created a climate of fear and uncertainty for the communities served by DLCs. This ruling permits ICE to resume immigration stops based on appearance in locations often frequented by day laborers, such as Home Depot parking lots.

Consequently, DLCs are experiencing significant operational interruptions that may ultimately affect their ability to meet contractual obligations. They are actively seeking City assistance to adapt to this rapidly changing political climate. DLCs face considerable uncertainty regarding their role, the extent of their intervention in ICE activities, and the legal and ethical implications of engaging with federal enforcement agencies.

In response to the continued ICE activity, EWDD has also been working with CIFD to connect the DLCs with their local FSCs to provide emergency assistance to impacted families.

Recommendations for Increasing Accessibility of Source Center Programming

Based on feedback from service providers and partners, the following are recommendations for increasing accessibility of the BSC, WSC, and YSC programming to populations impacted by federal immigration enforcement moving forward, including expanding online or in-home services:

- Continue to facilitate virtual/ remote access to WSC and YSC services.
 - In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City's WSC system made available program services virtually, such as orientation sessions describing the variety of services available in person or virtually, varying from mock interviews to a participant assessment and career exploration to submitting and processing support services to processing training agreements with participants and training providers. Orientations are available in both English and Spanish.
 - In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City's YSC system evolved its program access process by launching the Hire LA's Youth (HLAY) Platform. This online application and enrollment system removed the need for youth applicants to come in person to access the various youth employment programs offered by the City. This "always-on" entry point may be a contributing factor to why the YSC system has not seen any decline in engagement and enrollment.

An online application process has also allowed the YSC system to better handle referrals between partners, meaning that youth have better access to the full system, rather than just those in their physical neighborhood.

The following are services and resources currently available online via CalJOBSSM for all job seekers:

- Labor Market Information, which includes Labor Market Facts, Summary of Labor Market by area or industry profile, Occupational Profile, and Education Profile.
- Upcoming Workshops and Events near them, which may include but not limited to:

- Job Fairs
- Resource Fairs
- Employer Recruitment Events
- Resume Workshops
- Job Finding Clubs.
- Education and Training, which includes information on Training providers and schools, Financial Assistance links, Online Learning Resources, and other related items.
- Other Career Service
 - Registering or Signing in to CalJOBS
 - Find a Job
 - Resume Builder
 - Employers' Job postings.

The following are services and resources currently available online via CalJOBS for employers:

- Finding Qualified Candidates
- Finding a Job Fair to Join
- Reviewing Job Market Trends
- Continue to support “Know Your Rights” pilot training programs to support ICE-impacted youth.

As part of the Year 26 WIOA Annual Plan, EWDD, along with the Workforce Development Board (WDB) and the Mayor’s Office of Economic Opportunity, launched an innovative pilot program to support young Angelenos from communities directly impacted by immigration enforcement activities. The Know Your Rights Ambassadors pilot is a workforce development program that brings job training and peer advocacy for high school students. Participants will be introduced to labor rights, civic engagement, public speaking, and community outreach training. This pilot is being led by the Miguel Contreras Foundation, which will be leading the recruitment and training of participants.

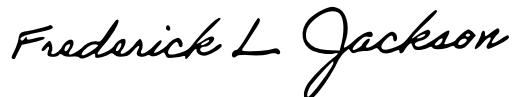
- Continue to facilitate systems alignment across the Source Centers (BSC, WSC, YSC, and F) along with the dozens of strategic partners referenced above to leverage resources and coordinate resources to support impacted communities.
- Continue to collaborate with CIFD to connect the DLCs with their local FSCs to provide emergency assistance to impacted families.
- As permitted by respective funding sources and as determined by appropriate case management, offer one-time emergency support services for WSC and YSC clients impacted by reduced income as a result of the immigration raids impacting their workplace.
- Continue to have BSCs outreach to impacted businesses.

Federal Policy Impact on Workforce Programming

On July 10, 2025 the DOL issued Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 10-23, Change 2, outlining a strict prohibition against utilizing WIOA funding to serve individuals who lack the “right to work.” The TEGL was intended to further clarify and establish that all participant-level WIOA services are considered “federal public benefits” under the Personal Responsibility and Worker Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). Therefore, grantees must verify work authorization for all participants served by WIOA and related programs before delivering participant-level services. The guidance therefore restricts the use of WIOA funds to serve individuals without work authorization. The impact of this TEGL will be to increase liabilities for Local Workforce Areas that continue to serve individuals without work authorization.

Next Steps

EWDD will continue to monitor impacts on enrollment and service activity and will continue to work collaboratively with County and City departments on outreach and programming to support impacted communities.



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