

The WDB is now located at 4071 Port Chicago Hwy. Suite 250, Concord CA 94520

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Implementation Update

The WDB has successfully completed most of the WIOA implementation criteria inclusive of new local and regional plans, MOU Phase I & Phase II, One-Stop Operator requirement and the AJCC Certification process. The one area that remains constant and fluid is the regional work under the new State designated Regional Planning Units (RPU) of which Contra Costa is the lead for the East Bay RPU (updates below).

Adult & Dislocated Worker Career Services/AJCC Transition

Transition

Due to significant reductions in the WDB budget, the WDB, along with the Board of Supervisors, approved the procurement for WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker Career Services in October of 2017. An RFP was released in November of 2017, and a recommendation and subsequent award was made in March of 2018 to Rubicon Programs on behalf of the Contra Costa Workforce Collaborative.

As of May 24th, 2018, 3 of the 4 EASTBAY Works America's Job Centers of California (AJCC) were closed: Liberty, Antioch, and San Pablo. Eighteen staff were affected by these closures: 15 were successfully transitioned to equitable positions within the County; 2 retired; 1 accepted a position in San Francisco; and 1 is still eligible for the TET program and seeking employment.

The comprehensive AJCC located in Concord remained open with limited staff, and with the assistance of partner organizations continued to offer services throughout the county until the contract with Rubicon was in place.

Rubicon/Contra Costa Workforce Collaborative

The contract with Rubicon Programs to operate the Comprehensive America's Job Center of California and the delivery of Adult & Dislocated Worker Career Services throughout Contra Costa County was approved at the August 14th Board of Supervisors meeting with an August 1st start date. Rubicon staff have started working at the Concord AJCC as of August 1st and we continue to work with them and the Contra Costa Workforce Collaborative to fully implement Adult & Dislocated Worker Career Services throughout Contra Costa County.

The Collaborative is an innovative public-nonprofit partnership of Contra Costa County workforce development organizations that currently operate within the County and was created specifically in response to this RFP. The Collaborative consists of our Community Colleges, our Adult Education partners, Opportunity Junction, Lao Family Community Development, New Horizons, San Pablo EDC, and Rubicon as the lead.

WIOA Youth Programs

Program year 2018-19 youth contractors include: Contra Costa County Office of Education and Mt. Diablo Unified School District. Bay Area Community Resources will no longer be a provider; Contra Costa County Office of Education will pick up the service delivery in East Contra Costa County. Contracts are in place and the funding for these contracts will remain level.

CCWORKS

Under the direction of the WDBCCC the CCWORKS subsidized employment program continues to have a high success rate of finding work experience opportunities for CalWORKS recipients. The WDBCCC continues to work on deepening its collaboration with the CalWORKS program and is currently strategizing a process for co-enrollment.

CCWORKS is experiencing a lower than usual placement rate due to the new County onboarding process that requires all CCWORKS participants being placed in a county work assignment to be finger printed via live scan. This process is delaying placement of participants up to 6 weeks and many are timing or dropping out due to this long delay.

Highlights:

- CCWORKS placements for 2018-2019 July 1st through August 31st: 12
- CCWORKS placements for 2017-2018: 110

Business Services

The WDB business services team continues to work closely with our local chambers, our city offices and economic development entities throughout the county, our identified regional sector partnerships and other programs and partnerships.

Highlights include:

- The WDB hosted 2 Fair Chance Employer Summits in program year 2017-18: 1 on October 18th at the El Cerrito Community Center and 1 on May 16th at the Antioch Community Center. Both events were extremely successful with over 250 attendees and 35 Fair Chance Business Pledges secured for both events combined.
- The WDB business services recently entered into a partnership with the Contra Costa County Employer Advisory Council and will be hosting employer forums jointly. Along with the City of Concord we will host a forum on “Finding the Untapped Workforce Market” on November 7th.
- The WDB business team is establishing a county wide business task force that will include EDD and other public and community based organizations to streamline services for all Contra Costa businesses: Integrated Business and Employment Service Team = IBest
- Through the Disability Accelerator Employment Grant, WDB business services will be hosting an employer educational forum on hiring people with disabilities in February of 2019.

Rapid Response & Layoff Aversion Summary

- We received 4 WARN Notices: (Archer Norris Law Firm-97 Impacted Workers), (AT&T-59 Impacted Workers), (Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH)-50 Impacted Workers), and (Kmart-68 Impacted Workers)
- In-Person Outreach to five OSH Stores in the county (San Ramon, Moraga, Pinole, Pleasant Hill, and Concord)
- 8/29 - Completed a RR Orientation with Archer Norris Law Firm in Walnut Creek. There were 19 employees in attendance.

Small Business Development Center

Partially funded by the Small Business Administration (SBA), this program, hosted by the WDBCCC, delivers individualized advising and group training to current and aspiring business owners in English and Spanish throughout the County. The SBDC actively partners with myriad public, nonprofit, and private sector organizations to attract “high-impact” employers as well as community-based agencies to reach and serve low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents.

The SBDC braids and leverages federal Small Business Administration (SBA) funding with state and local support from the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Keller Canyon Mitigation funds. Approximately 75% of our clients self-identify as 80% below the area median income.

FY 17-18 Performance:

- 996 individuals (535 in business) advised, 730 trained
- 197 jobs created, 48 jobs retained
- 33 new business starts
- \$7,385,419.00 in debt/equity invested in small businesses
- \$ 13,168,696.03 in annualized sales increases

Noteworthy developments

- Was approved as an affiliate partner of the SparkPoint collaborative

Successes

- Was awarded \$62,500 in GO-Biz support for the Capital Infusion Program (CIP) an ongoing project
- Was awarded \$20,000 by the Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund (an ongoing partnership)
- Was awarded \$12,500 by the City of Brentwood (an increase of ongoing support)

Regional Initiatives, Organizing and Training

East Bay Regional Planning Unit (RPU)

There is a lot going on in workforce around regionalism. Contra Costa County is still the lead for the approximately 1 million dollars in regional funds that the East Bay RPU has been awarded toward this effort.

Regional trainings we are in the process of scheduling:

- Understanding Context of Criminal Justice Supervision
- Creating Talent for Change
- Facilitating Career Development

East Bay Slingshot

While initial funding for this initiative has expired, Contra Costa and the East Bay Region continues to be recognized for our SlingShot model and successes. The East Bay RPU funds will support all 5 of the sector partnerships to build capacity and sustain these efforts regionally. Some of the regional funds will be used to support a regional administrative support staff person to organize these efforts. Some of this funding has been allocated for specific regional industries (Advanced Manufacturing and Healthcare) to

support sustainability models they are working on and some of these funds have been allocated to training cohorts with earn & learn components in the healthcare industry; specifically a dental assisting training targeted to start late 2018 or early 2019.

Earn & Learn East Bay (ELEB)

Earn & Learn East Bay is an employer engagement campaign that supports employers in providing quality work-based learning experiences for youth and provides them with a local talent pipeline. To support this work, Earn & Learn works with school districts, community colleges, workforce development boards, youth development providers and business associations in Alameda and Contra Costa counties in creating a coordinated system that increases and enhances transformative experiences for youth. ELEB is currently hosted and coordinated by the WDBCCC and the Contra Costa Economic Partnership (CCEP).

The Problem: Business as usual wasn't working for business anymore, employers were being inundated with work based learning requests, and were ready for a change.

The Solution: Earn & Learn East Bay organizes work-based learning experiences that are transformational for youth and easy and meaningful for employers. We are a single point of contact for employers to work with the region's schools, colleges and community organizations

Our Impact: 11,329 Total Youth Served with WBL Activities; 30 Connectors

Our Reach: Over 1,500 Organizations; Over 2,500 Employees located in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties

Our Community:

Contra Costa County Office of Education
Alameda County Office of Education
Contra Costa County Workforce Development Board
Alameda County Workforce Development Board
Oakland Unified School District
Mt. Diablo Unified School District
UC Berkeley Boost
Contra Costa County Community College District; Los Medanos College & Diablo Valley College
Antioch Unified School District
San Ramon Unified School District
Pittsburg Unified School District
West Contra Costa Unified School District
Martinez Unified School District
John Swett Unified School District
Oakland Workforce Development Board

Earn & Learn Highlights

- Co-Coordinating Manufacturing Day 10/5 including marketing, employer outreach. Manufacturing companies participating include: Benchmark, Bishop-Wisecarver, DOW, Fresenius, Granberg, Lennar, Quick Mount PV. Participating schools include: LMC, DVC, Mt. Diablo, Pittsburg, San Ramon, John Swett, and Antioch.

- E&L selected to present at the Dreamforce Salesforce Conference in September
- E&L will pitch for round #3 Strong Workforce funding at CCCAOE in October

Prison 2 Employment Initiative (P2E)

As part of Governor Brown's efforts to improve California's criminal and juvenile justice systems and reduce recidivism through increased rehabilitation, the California Workforce Development Board (State Board), California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), California Prison Industry Authority, and California Workforce Association have finalized a partnership agreement that is included in amendments to the California WIOA Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan 2016-2020.

The partnership agreement is intended to strengthen linkages between the workforce and corrections systems in order to improve the process by which formerly incarcerated and justice-involved¹ individuals reenter society and the labor force. The partnership agreement will inform policies specific to Local Workforce Development Boards (Local Board) and how they serve the state's formerly incarcerated and justice-involved population

This initiative proposes \$37 million over three budget years to fund the states 14 regional planning units. The money will be released in 3 phases: Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation.

We are in the planning phase now and have convened the mandatory partners with the specific intention of creating and submitting a request for \$100,000 for our proposed plan. This proposal was submitted Monday, August 27th. The planning funds should be available by October and all regions will be required to submit their plan and request for implementation funds as part of our revised RPU plans due March 15, 2019.

Regional and Local Plan Update

Under WIOA, a biennial update of regional and local plans is required in order to ensure plans remain current and account for "changes in labor market and economic conditions or in other factors affecting the implementation of the local plan" (29 U.S. Code § 3123). The California Workforce Development Board (State Board) has also made changes to the State Plan which require that Local Boards update their plans to keep them consistent with the policy direction of the State Plan. Pursuant to the State Plan modifications submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor in the spring of 2018 and approved on June 11, 2018, the State Board is providing guidance to Local Boards on the requirements associated with local and regional planning modifications. This Directive provides specific guidance and instructions on both required and elective modifications to local and regional plans. Revised plans are due March 15, 2019.

New elements that must be included in the revised plans:

- Workforce-Corrections Partnerships: A New Element of Regional Plans
- New Partnership Agreement with CalFresh and Strengthened Partnerships with Human Service Agencies
- Required Plan Content Pertaining to the DCSS and Workforce System Partnership
- Revised Partnership Agreement Pertaining to Competitive Integrated Employment
- Provision of Services to English Language Learners, the Foreign Born, and Refugees
- Required compliance with State Plan guidance and State Law regarding Multi-Craft Core Curriculum pre-apprenticeship partnerships

Economic Development, EC2 and the Northern Waterfront Initiative

The WDB remains actively involved with local economic development efforts including EC2 and the Northern Waterfront Initiative. The WDB participates in monthly meetings as well as attends the 5th Tuesday EC2 partner update meeting most recently on July 31st at the Pittsburg City Hall. WDB Staff recently attended a presentation on the planning that has been done around developing human capital for the Northern Waterfront and is working with another contractor providing input for the new Northern Waterfront strategic plan.

The WDB is working closely with the new Economic Manager, Amalia Cunningham, and has been jointly organizing get-togethers with all city economic managers and chambers.

Budget/Grants/Funding Opportunities

The WDB budget is stable for the current FY 2018-2019 however are still experiencing difficulty getting expenditure reports and up-to-date budget information to validate this.

The WDB has prioritized pursuing additional funding opportunities to support the important work we are tasked with. The WDB has or is considering pursuing the following opportunities:

- **AB 109**: The WDBCCC will continue to receive \$208,000 annually from AB 109 funding for PY 2018-2019. These funds have primarily been used for two purposes: 1) to deepen connections between the re-entry community and businesses/employers; 2) to strengthen partnerships between the WDBCCC and other public agencies, as well as the contracted nonprofit service providers that are helping AB 109 participants reenter the community.
- **EDD Disability Employment Accelerator**: The WDB was awarded \$250,000 on behalf of the East Bay Region to support training, work experience and employment for people with disabilities. The East Bay RPU will be working with Futures Explored, East Bay Innovations, EDD and our Adult Education partners on this project.
- The WDB is collaborating with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) on an Electric Vehicle Ready Communities grant the CCTA was awarded from the Clean Energy Commission.
- The WDB is pursuing a YouthBuild grant that is due September 18th.
- The WDB is actively research the possibility of creating a 501c3

WDB Board

With 25 seats, The WDB is almost fully seated and with several applications coming in we anticipate being fully seated very soon.

The current Chair, Bhupen Amin, was asked to participate on a board panel at the upcoming California Workforce Association (CWA) conference Meeting of the Minds in Monterey, CA September 4th through the 6th.

The ED and Chair Amin will be meeting with all the Board of Supervisors individually during the months of September and October.