



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$500,000 to South Bay Workforce Investment Board**  
*Grant to support "Reentry Works" program aimed at breaking cycle of poverty, crime and incarceration*

**Hawthorne** – The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced the award of \$500,000 in grant funds to the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB). The funds will provide support services to currently incarcerated individuals (inmates) at Men's Central Jail (MCJ) to prepare for employment and assist these soon-to-be-released inmates as they transition into working life.

SBWIB was one of 11 organizations awarded approximately \$5.5 million in grants and will utilize the funds to support the "Reentry Works" Linking to Employment Activities Pre-release program through a specialized jail-based American Job Centers (AJC) in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LACSD) at Men's Central Jail (MCJ), located in downtown Los Angeles.

Key to the success of the Reentry Works program are the collaborative partnerships that will work together to coordinate jail-based, transitional, support and employment services. SBWIB will provide program management and fiscal oversight, the LACSD operates MCJ facilities, New Opportunities Charter School and Five Keys Charter Schools will provide education and vocational training at MCJ and will operate the jail-based AJC, and Friends Outside in Los Angeles will provide case management and reentry transition services at the jail-based and community-based AJCs. Within 5-7 miles of MCJ, employment and support services will be provided by the partner AJCs including The South Bay One-Stop AJC in the City of Inglewood, Community Career Development, Inc. in the City of Compton, and the Coalition for Responsible Community Development AJC at Los Angeles Trade Technical College.

Additional program partners providing support services such as employment, housing, veterans services, family mediation and mental health are; LA Kitchen, Isadore Electronic Recycling, Los Angeles Technical Trade College, US Vets, AEG, Behavioral Health Services, Coalition for Responsible Community Development, Centinela Youth Services, Inc., Zephyr Tool Group, PV Jobs, AEG, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy, and the Electrical Training Institute. The program model is strength based and takes an integrated approach to pre and post release services through identification of individual, family and community risk-factors building competencies, and resiliency.

Jan Vogel, SBWIB Executive Director stated; "We are grateful to the Department of Labor for these much-needed funds and anticipate that by coordinating work readiness services from incarceration through their transition into employment participants will be able to secure good paying jobs and get on a path to self-sufficiency and reduce the likelihood of recidivism."



These initiatives are part of the Obama administration's ongoing efforts to help Americans who have paid their debt to society reintegrate into their communities and lead prosperous, law-abiding lives.