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June 13, 2025

TO: Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board

FROM: Kate Vacanti, Workforce Development Branch
Assistance Director

**SUBJECT: WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND
OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) 2025 JANUARY
WILDFIRES ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND
WILDFIRES NATIONAL DISLOCATED
WORKER GRANT**

This item presents for information and discussion the objective of launching two (2) new WIOA programs: the 2025 January Wildfires Additional Assistance (AA) and National Dislocated Worker (NDWG) grants.

The County was awarded \$9M for the AA project and \$9M for NDWG, of which \$8,450,000 has been received to date. The AA program is expected to run through March 2026 and NDWG through January 2028.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

On January 7th, a mass scale wind and wildfire event broke out throughout LA County. On January 8th, President Biden approved a Major Disaster Declaration for California, allowing impacted communities and survivors to immediately access funds and resources to jumpstart their recovery.

As a result of the wildfires, many businesses of all sizes and their employees are facing compounding economic hurdles that threaten their livelihood and the region's local economy.

The funding from the Additional Assistance and NDWG grants will provide immediate financial security and long-term economic opportunity and mobility to workers impacted by the January windstorms and wildfires through the Fire Recovery and Resilience Workforce Program.

The program provides hiring and training support including:

- Temporary Jobs in debris removal/clean up and humanitarian assistance positions to help the region recover from the fire damage and regional impacts
- Direct employment assistance to help skilled workers return to the workforce
- Transitional Jobs to provide subsidized employment opportunities and connections with businesses looking for talented workers
- Training funds to provide upskilling opportunities and on-the-job training

NDWG funding will provide 174 participants with temporary job opportunities in disaster relief of 3-5 months through the East San Gabriel Valley and West LA AJCCs. The Additional Assistance funding will support 1,000 participants throughout the LA region across all 7 workforce development boards (LA City Economic and Workforce Development Department, Foothill Workforce Development Board, Long Beach Innovation Network, Southeast Los Angeles Workforce Development Board, South Bay Workforce Investment Board, and Verdugo Workforce Development Board). Services will focus on preparing individuals for careers in five sectors: Construction, Leisure and Hospitality, Healthcare and Social Assistance, Early Care and Education, and Government.

NEXT STEPS

A full report will be provided to the LACWDB detailing the progress and outcomes of each of the two (2) grants at the next Quarterly Meeting.

KV:JS