

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

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**ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

444 S. FLOWER STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90071

DATE: February 29, 2024

TO: Currently Contracted City of Los Angeles WorkSource Centers

FROM: Gerardo Ruvalcaba, Assistant General Manager 
Workforce Development System

**SUBJECT: WDS INFORMATION BULLETIN № 24-07
REQUEST FOR INTEREST TO PROVIDE WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS
IMPACTED BY THE FARMER JOHN PLANT CLOSURE**

EFFECTIVE DATE

This bulletin is effective upon date of issuance.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to solicit information from currently contracted City of Los Angeles (City) WorkSource Centers (WSC) on their interest in providing workforce development and supportive services to individuals impacted by the Farmer John plant closure.

BACKGROUND

On June 6, 2022, Smithfield Foods Inc., the largest pork producer in the United States and one of four conglomerates that controls over half of the entire American meat processing industry, announced plans to permanently close their Los Angeles based Farmer John processing plant after more than 90 years in the community. In March 2023, the closure dislocated approximately 2,500 workers from the Vernon based plant – with at least 500 of these employees living in the City of Los Angeles.

EWDD has been able to provide Rapid Response services to impacted employees in order to provide critical services alongside the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 770, and the Hospitality Training Academy (HTA).

The workers impacted are largely immigrant, mono-lingual, and primarily Latinx. These low wage workers lack in-demand skills and are highly vulnerable to food, housing, economic insecurity, and systemic discrimination. Grant funds will be expended to cover emergency supportive services, and workforce career services needs of this population to assist in their return to employment and self-sufficiency. Workforce career services will include, but not be limited to, interview preparation, resume building, individual counseling, and job search assistance. While supportive services may include, but not be limited to, assistance with transportation, childcare and dependent care, assistance with housing, and other allowable expenses for participant support.

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.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

The total proposed amount of funding for this project is up to \$685,000 in Additional Assistance Dislocated Worker grant funds.

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS AND PRIORITY OF SERVICE

Participant eligibility are individuals dislocated by the closure of the Farmer John meat processing plant located in the City of Vernon.

TERM OF CONTRACTS

Contracts resulting from this Request for Interest (RFI) will be effective from December 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Currently contracted WSCs interested in delivering the above-described services should complete and submit the following documents **no later than 5:00pm on Thursday, March 14, 2024.**

1. **Request for Interest Response Form** (attached hereto as Attachment 1).

2. **Cover Letter**

Needs to be dated and bearing the “wet” signature of an authorized signatory, signatory’s full address, telephone number, and email address.

3. **Project Design Narrative**

Not to exceed two (2) pages, to include the following:

- a. A detailed project design, to include the following:

- A description of outreach efforts to individuals from the Farmer John plant interested in workforce development/training services.
- A description of the referral process for individuals interested in WorkSource Center provided services.

- b. The number of former Farmer John workers that have already inquired about/received services at your WorkSource Center, if applicable.

- c. Please provide a description of experience working with clients with multiple and significant barriers to employment. Former workers of the Farmer John processing plant are on average 55-61 years of age, most do not have a high school diploma, have limited math skills, are semi-literate, and are monolingual Spanish and/or Vietnamese speakers.

- d. A written commitment to assign one project manager to this project who is full time equivalent (FTE). Project manager should be capable of assisting participants requiring intensive case management (i.e. language support, technologic barriers, etc.)

- e. The number of enrollments per month that Proposer will be able to serve, and the total number of participants that Proposer will serve for the project.

- f. A listing and description of leveraged resources that will be deployed for this project.

- g. A brief description of current language capabilities of staff at the WSC – including Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese. Please indicate fluency level.

- h. A list of current partners or collaborators for the training and workforce development (for example, other WSCs, employer associations, chambers of commerce, etc.) and a description of the services they provided.
- i. Please provide a brief description of any partnerships, or collaborations, with United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 770, the Hospitality Training Academy (HTA), or City of LA Family Source Centers.
- j. A description of specific participant outreach strategies deployed by Proposer for WIOA Adult and DW services.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Timely submission of the RFI is the sole responsibility of each proposer. The City reserves the right to determine the timeliness of all submissions; and may reject any submissions delivered after the stated deadline. Response forms and proposals will be time-stamped upon submission to EWDD.

Submission Deadline Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024

Deadline Time: 5:00pm

Delivery Method: E-mail to EWDD.Planning@lacity.org
with the subject line: “**Farmer John WSC RFI,**
[Proposer Name]”

Proposals submitted **after 5:00pm on Thursday, March 14, 2024, may not be accepted.**

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

RFIs will be evaluated based on the narratives submitted. Proposers will be evaluated on their previous experience and success with projects funded by WIOA, their understanding of the City’s project design, and their ability to plan, manage and implement the proposed project model.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Funding recommendations are subject to approval by the City WDB and/or the Los Angeles City Council. Funding amounts are set at the discretion of the City; each agency’s past performance will be considered in making funding recommendations. The City reserves the right to fund one or more WSCs or none.

EWDD CONTACT

Questions regarding this information bulletin must be e-mailed to EWDD.Planning@lacity.org subject line: “**Farmer John WSC RFI Question,**” **by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2024.**

CMH:GR:FVC:DB:SM:cg

Attachment: Request for Interest Response Form