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**SOUTH BAY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD AWARDED \$864,000 JOB TRAINING GRANT TO IMPROVE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED**

Hawthorne, CA

The City of Hawthorne has been awarded \$864,037 on behalf of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (formerly the Private Industry Council) from the United States Department of Labor to streamline services for people with disabilities, including Welfare-to-Work recipients seeking employment assistance at One-Stop Centers. The grant will pay for services in Hawthorne, El Segundo, Gardena, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach.

Mayor of Hawthorne Larry Guidi stated: "The City of Hawthorne is very happy to receive these funds. This money will enable the South Bay One-Stop Business and Career Centers to improve the quality of services it provides in Hawthorne and the rest of our Service Delivery Area by linking people with disabilities to our One-Stop Centers through increased accessibility and improved staff awareness of the unique issues and concerns of persons with disabilities."

The South Bay One-Stop Business and Career Centers are engineered to provide a full range of services to assist both those in need of employment and those in need of employees under one roof. Offering labor market information, training referrals, job placement assistance, career counseling and many other employment-related services, as well as many services to employers. Employer services include prescreening of applicants, incumbent worker training and no cost staffing services.

The outline of the grant award program includes planning and implementing to adapt and improve One-Stop Center services to more fully meet the employment and training needs of persons with disabilities. The South Bay Workforce Investment Board will implement a series of planning, systems integration, staff development, technology, marketing, management, evaluation, and system management changes. Enhancements will include development of uniform client intake and tracking forms to establish baseline data on consumers with disabilities accessing the One-Stop Centers.

The grants program stems from recommendations made by the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities in its report "Re-charting the Course". The report called for efforts to increase the employment rate of adults with disabilities.

"Experience has shown that we need to improve access to the One-Stop System and make it more useful for people with disabilities," Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman said.

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