

South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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GRANTS TOTALING \$850,000 WILL PROVIDE JOB PREPARATION SKILLS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) has been awarded Federal and state grants totaling \$850,000 for its Bridge to Work Program that provides at-risk youth and young adults ages 14-24, with job preparation skills and mediation/ conflict resolution services. The funds were the result of a Congressional earmark grant by Congresswoman Maxine Waters, and the State Department of Rehabilitation grant.

The job training services will be provided through the South Bay One-Stop Business & Careers Centers, and the mediation / conflict resolution services will be provided by the SBWIB's Centinela Youth Services with support from the local faith-based agencies.

“These funds are going to help us continue to provide vital services to our youth in the areas of anger management and overall life skills,” said Hawthorne Mayor Larry Guidi. “But most importantly, it will help steer these youth away from criminal activity and out of prison.”

Now in its fifth year, the Bridge to Work Program will provide services to this at-risk population in the communities of Inglewood, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Gardena and the unincorporated areas of West Athens. The program is responsible for an exceptional employment placement program rate of nearly 80% for young adults 18-24.

“These programs have been proven to reduce gang violence and assist youth who want to improve their lives and become successful in school and their chosen careers,” noted Assemblyman Curren Price.

Bridge to Work is also supported through funds provided by the Federal Workforce Investment Act, the California Corrections Standard Authority, Community Development Block Grant funds and private foundations and corporations.