

South Bay Workforce Investment Board  
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PRESS RELEASE  
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**HAWTHORNE MAYOR LARRY GUIDI AND ASSEMBLYMEMBER CURREN PRICE ANNOUNCE GRANT OF \$464,000 TO PROVIDE JOB PREPARATION SERVICES FOR AT RISK YOUTH.**

Hawthorne Mayor Larry Guidi and Assemblymember Curren Price announced at the South Bay Gang Prevention Summit that \$464,000 in grant funds were granted to the South Bay Workforce Investment Board for its Bridge to Work Program through the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. They also expressed their appreciation for Congresswoman Maxine Waters' advocacy and leadership that was key in piloting the program in 2004 with federal funds. Since then, Bridge to Work has also gained funding support from the Federal Workforce Investment Act, California Corrections Standards Authority, Community Development Block Grant funds, and local foundations and corporations.

The program will serve 425 youth per year for an additional two years by providing them job training services through the South Bay One-Stop Business & Career Centers, and mediation/conflict resolution services through its partner agency, Centinela Youth Services, as well as mentoring and counseling services through other local community-based and faith-based agencies. Other components of Bridge to Work serve youth by preparing them with basic skills for the work place.

These funds will also contribute to the coordination and development of a Teen Center, which will soon open at the Hawthorne Memorial Center. The Teen Center will provide a safe place where youth can participate in afterschool activities and receive services from a variety of City and Hawthorne community agencies.

“These funds will help us continue providing vital services to assist our at-risk youth become self sufficient,” said Hawthorne Mayor Larry Guidi. “But most importantly, it will steer them away from inappropriate activities to constructive ones that will help them become productive members of society.” Assemblymember Price added that, “Direct program results have proven to reduce gang crimes and help youth become successful in school and in their careers.” So far, the program is responsible for an exceptional employment placement rate of nearly 80 percent for young adults.

The Bridge to Work Program services the 46-square-mile area encompassing Inglewood, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Carson, Gardena and the unincorporated County areas of West Athens and Lennox.

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