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## PRESS RELEASE

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board 11539 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 500 Hawthorne, CA 90250 Contact: 310-970-7700

## The City of Inglewood in Partnership with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board are Awarded a \$1 Million Youth Reinvestment Grant by the State of California Board of State and Community Corrections

**HAWTHORNE** – The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) has awarded the City of Inglewood, in partnership with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), a \$1 million Youth Reinvestment Grant. Funding will be utilized for the Inglewood-Community and Regional Engagement-Youth Reinvestment Program (I-CARE-YRP) to provide effective services to youth, addressing their current needs or potential involvement with the justice system through vocational training that develop skills needed for long-term career success.

The City of Inglewood approached the SBWIB and Centinela Youth Services (CYS), who have a demonstrated history of success in working with the city and the target population, to partner with the city. Stop the Violence (STV) coalition approached the current partners offering to bring their expertise to the project along with other providers as well. The strategies implemented by these projects will be applied to I-CARE-YRP and be used to service youth at the South Bay Teen Centers, SBWIB Youth Build and for vocational training.

"These projects have proven to increase the self-esteem of youth, develop better attitudes toward peers and school, and increased communication with parents and other adults," stated SBWIB's Executive Director, Jan Vogel. "By partnering together, we will better assist many more youth," he added.

Youth will be referred to the program from a number of different sources including: Inglewood PD, LA County Sheriffs, Hawthorne PD, the District Attorney's Office, Inglewood Juvenile Court, youth probation officers, and Inglewood/Hawthorne/Lennox school police and school administrators and counselors. "Our goal is to reach high-risk youth with barriers early with these proven services before they enter the justice system," stated City of Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts Jr.

Using the employer driven and validated Blueprint for Workplace Success work readiness training developed by the SBWIB and employers, youth will learn skills in resume writing, interviewing, and workplace integration skills crucial to getting and keeping a job. The SBWIB's federally-funded YouthBuild program will enable youth to obtain summer jobs and enter into pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training programs leading to skills enhancement and long-term careers. Youth will also access the SBWIB's Youth One-Stop Services for job search and support services.

Teen Centers will become hubs of services and attract more young people to engage in pro-social, trauma reduction, and other long-term success strategies, reducing risk of justice system involvement. The SBWIB operates four One Stop Business & Career Centers within its South Bay service area plus two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne providing no cost adult, youth and business services. For further information, please call (310) 970-7700 or visit sbwib.org.

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