



PRESS RELEASE

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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**Congresswoman Maxine Waters Awards \$500,000
Community Grant to South Bay Workforce Investment Board
To Provide Occupational Skills Training for Former Foster Care Youth**

HAWTHORNE – The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) has been awarded a \$500,000 Community Project Grant from Congresswoman Maxine Waters (43rd District) to help fund the SBWIB’s Bridge to Work – Foster Youth Career Pathways Program. The goal is to provide up to 100 foster youth ages 18-24 with occupational skills training and other support services that can help them prepare for career pathways in high wage/high growth sectors including healthcare, construction, advanced manufacturing, digital media/film, trade & logistics and hospitality.

This project will include short-term vocational training, Pre-Apprentice and Apprenticeships, paid work experience, On the Job Training and unsubsidized employment for eligible participants, with an emphasis on 21-24 year old youth who are transitioning out of the Foster Care System.

“We are truly grateful for the continuing support Congresswoman Maxine Waters has provided over the years which has enabled us to provide employment opportunities for adults and youth that contribute to economic growth throughout her district and our South Bay region,” said SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel. “This grant will help foster youth to overcome barriers that keep them from gaining meaningful employment and vital career preparation services,” he further noted.

Working in collaboration with LA County Department of Family and Child Services over the years, the Bridge to Work program has resulted in nearly 1,000 foster youth gaining valuable work experience and placement in unsubsidized jobs.

The Congresswoman was successful in procuring \$13 million for 10 Community Project Grants within her district including three in Hawthorne.

The SBWIB provides no cost services to employers and job seekers through its four One-Stop Business and Career Centers that serve 11 South Bay communities. It also serves youth ages 14-24 at its two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne. For further information go to www.sbwib.org or call 310-970-7700.