



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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**South Bay Workforce Investment Board Providing Rapid Response Services
in Support of Companies and Individuals Facing Difficulties
www.sbwib.org/covid-19-resources**

HAWTHORNE – The impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on the economic vitality and workforce of the greater South Bay area is affecting companies large and small as they contemplate closures, layoffs and furloughs for their employees. For the safety of the public and to reduce the number of people in close proximity, a number of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board's (SBWIB) upcoming job fairs and business expos have been canceled, including our annual Blueprint for Workplace Success Youth and Young Adults Job Fair in April. Job fairs and hiring events will remain postponed until it is safe to reconvene.

Contact us for services

As business closures begin and layoffs are imposed, increasingly large numbers of individuals are coming to our job centers for assistance, as well as Employment Development Offices (EDD), which are partners of the SBWIB and co located at our job centers. The SBWIB operates four One-Stop Business & Career Service Centers located in Inglewood, Torrance, Gardena and Carson serving the South Bay communities. However, although the job centers are open we are currently only accepting in-person meetings by appointment only. Additionally, the Teen Centers at both the Hawthorne and Inglewood locations are currently closed to the public. Complete cleaning and sanitizing at the four job centers is ongoing and aligned with public safety priorities.

It is our goal to provide essential workforce services to support the public during this difficult time. Businesses and individuals needing assistance do not have to physically visit the centers and can still receive services online, by email at info@sbwib.org or via direct telephone contact with our teams of job developers and counselors, while practicing social distancing.

South Bay One-Stop Business & Career Centers

Inglewood (310) 680-3700

Torrance (310) 680-3830

Carson (310) 680-3870 (calls are accepted, appointments available at Inglewood location)

Gardena (310) 538-7070

Job seekers may also utilize the SBWIB's resume portal online at www.sbwib.org/resume-portal

The SBWIB has been hard at work assisting business and employees who are facing numerous challenges, but sadly many businesses are not able to continue and companies already throughout the region have announced closures or layoffs and hundreds of people are seeking assistance. As a result, the SBWIB has seen a sharp increase in people seeking benefits from Unemployment Insurance.

Unemployment Benefits – How do I apply?

The SBWIB staff is available to help you and answer your questions, but to file for benefits you must apply online, by mail or by phone directly with the Employment Development Department.

English 1-800-300-5616

Spanish 1-800-326-8937

www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/UI_Online.htm

Individuals can receive benefits ranging from \$40-450 a week. The number of weeks to potentially receive benefits ranges from 13 to 26 weeks.

Most unemployment situations related to COVID-19 are being covered including those who are working reduced hours (ask for the WorkShare program) or those caring for non-ill children because of a school closure and had to quit their job to provide child care. Please call to confirm your eligibility.

Teleworking and Broadband

As we adjust our lifestyles to reduce exposure to COVID-19 many are turning to remote learning and working environments as a solution. Students and employees are learning and teleworking from home. Coincidentally, the SBWIB prepared a study about this in partnership with Cal State University Dominguez Hills and the South Bay Cities Council of Government (SBCCOG). The report called, "The GO-Virtual Initiative" is about telework and flexible workplace practices and may offer some guidance to people and companies interested in allowing employees to work from home. The SBWIB has also identified several no cost online classes to teach employees how to work remotely and stay productive and also classes for management on how to supervise a remote worker. Please visit our telework website for details at www.sbwib.org/telework

Additionally, in partnership with the South Bay Cities Council of Government (SBCCOG) and the region's South Bay Cities, and L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas of the 2nd district, the SBWIB has been developing a new broadband system called, "The South Bay Fiber Network". This new network is currently being built and will support job creation, business retention and layoff aversion by supplying the internet speed and capacity needed to keep our region competitive.

The SBWIB has taken a number of steps to ensure the public has access to the resources they need and has created a website with additional information that will be updated as more resources become available. Please visit www.sbwib.org/covid-19-resources

The SBWIB is here to help you and assist businesses that are struggling. If you need support or simply have questions about any of the information above or need some guidance on how to apply for services please call (310) 970-7700 or email: info@sbwib.org, website: www.sbwib.org.

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