



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**South Bay Workforce Investment Board Partners
With California Department of Rehabilitation to
Provide Paid Work Experience Jobs for Disabled Individuals**

HAWTHORNE – The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) has secured a contract valued at approximately \$1.1 million with the State of California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) to train up to 100 individuals with disabilities to qualify them for paid work experience assignments at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) through a collaboration with the Los Angeles World Airport’s hospitality iCARE support program (LAWA). The SBWIB has supported LAWA’s diversity, equity and inclusion hiring practices for local residents for several years.

The individuals will become part of the iCARE (Informative, Courteous, Approachable, Responsive and Efficient) Crew that provides vital guest assistance to national and international visitors and travelers trying to navigate around ongoing construction projects at LAX as increased passenger volume spikes. The iCARE Crew is also called upon to supplement LAX staff during emergencies and irregular operations by helping with crowd control and informational needs.

SBWIB will provide eligible individuals with Blueprint for Workplace Success work readiness training prior to them being placed into paid work experience assignments at LAX.

“This partnership with LAWA fulfills a need at LAX to not only assist travelers but also provide employment and experience for community members wanting to earn future jobs in the growing hospitality industry,” noted SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel. “We are truly grateful for the many years of support the DOR has given us and their confidence in our ability to help people with disabilities gain meaningful employment,” he concluded.

To date, SBWIB has trained and placed 27 California Department of Rehabilitation clients in a 400-hour-paid work experience assignment that pays individuals \$20 an hour. Upon completion of the assignment, they will be eligible to apply for permanent career pathway employment at LAX and receive letters of commendation from LAWA management.

The SBWIB operates four One-Stop Centers to serve adult and youth job seekers in Inglewood, Hawthorne, El Segundo, Gardena, Manhattan Beach, Lawndale, Carson, Hermosa Beach, Torrance, Redondo Beach and Lomita. It also operates two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne. For further information visit www.sbwib.org.