



**We'll be starting shortly...**

**Regional Workforce Alliance  
Quarter 4**

**Note to Participants:**

If you experience any difficulty connecting via Zoom at any time during the webinar please contact Sarah Reyes at:

[losangeles@emeraldcities.org](mailto:losangeles@emeraldcities.org)

# **Regional Workforce Alliance Q4**

**Wednesday, December 18th, 2024**

# Welcome

**Minh Le**

General Manager

Energy and Environmental Services

Los Angeles County, ISD



# Agenda

- 12:05 Welcome / Opening Remarks
- 12:10 Icebreaker Question and Attendee Introductions
- 12:20 Initiating Transformative Social Change by Strengthening the Workforce  
*Community Learning Partnership & California Youth Leadership Corps*
- 12:50 Building Today for a Better Tomorrow  
*USGBC California*
- 1:15 Introducing SoCalREN's Workforce, Education, & Training Opportunity Hub  
*Emerald Cities Collaborative*
- 1:25 Closing Remarks

# Southern California REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK



## Alliance Co-Hosts



## Alliance Partners



## Icebreaker Question and Attendee Introductions

Lujuana Medina

*Environmental Initiatives Division Manager  
ISD Energy and Environmental Services,  
County of Los Angeles*



# Initiating Transformative Social Change by Strengthening the Workforce

Rosa M. García, Ed.D.

*Executive Director*

*Community Learning Partnership & California  
Youth Leadership Corps*





**Presenter:**

**Rosa M. García, Ed.D.**

**Executive Director of CYLC & CLP**

**Brief Overview of the CYLC–CLP Model**







## What is California Youth Leadership Corps (CYLC)?

- CYLC is a statewide initiative of the Community Learning Partnership. It was created in 2021 to help build power among young people and historically marginalized communities by preparing the next generation of young leaders to organize and create change in their communities.
- CYLC has developed partnerships with state agencies, community colleges, nonprofit and social justice organizations, and foundations to create community change career pathways for historically marginalized students and Opportunity Youth across California.

### Goals:

- Prepare young people to become community organizers and change agents.
- Introduce young people and community college students to community change careers, including in areas of high need.
- Prepare young people for the nonprofit workforce.
- Help rebuild the nonprofit sector.





# Goals for CYLC-CLP

Scale up to 20 community college partnerships in community change learn-and-earn career pathways; our pilot included five community college partners.

Build a Holistic, impactful CYLC Model:

- Prepares young people with the academic credentials and work-based learning experience to become community organizers, change agents, and leaders in the nonprofit sector.
- Promotes equity and student success.
- Promotes economic security.
- Promotes civic engagement.
- Promotes a culture of care.
- Strengthens the nonprofit sector, particularly social justice and movement-building organizations.





## CYLC: A Holistic Model with Five Key Components

### I. Academic Programming/Preparation

Collaborate with campuses to create a community change learn-and-earn career pathway.

Students pursue a certificate in a community change-related area or an AA degree, taking credit-bearing courses leading to a postsecondary credential.

Community College teams create a cohort-based model for student fellows.





# CYLC: Key Components

## **II. Work-Based Learning Component/Field Placements**

CLP-CYLC and participating community college partner with social justice organizations/local nonprofits that serve as host organizations for student fellows. Student fellows complete 10 hours per week or 40 hours per month of paid work-based learning, gaining community organizing and advocacy skills and doing impactful work that benefits their communities. Students receive up to \$10,000 in a stipend award and \$5,000 in scholarship.

## **III. Reimagining Student Supports: Culture of Care**

Reimagine critical supports for students that promote health and wellness: academic counseling, social-emotional supports, peer- mentoring, coaching, and meeting the basic needs of students, integrating self-care practices for students. Biweekly check-ins with student fellows.





# CYLC Key Components

## **IV. Leadership Development Activities**

Engage students in community issues, issue-specific civic engagement campaigns, and movement building.

## **V. Career Services**

Connecting student participants to employment opportunities in the nonprofit and public sectors.





## Who is CYLC designed to serve?

- Low-income youth, primarily between the ages of 18-24, including students of color, immigrant youth, and students impacted by the criminal legal system. **DACA students and undocumented students are eligible to apply.**
- Opportunity youth (both in-school and out-of-school), including those working at nonprofit organizations in local communities who could benefit from these community change career pathways.
- Young people who are interested in making a difference in their communities.
- Community college students must be enrolled at one of our CYLC community college partner institutions.





## Benefits to CYLC Students

**Student Success.** Pursue a postsecondary credential in a community change field or a related field at one of the CYLC participating institutions and receive robust supports that help them succeed in school and beyond.

**Economic Security.** Receive stipend awards and scholarships: up to \$10,000 in stipends for work-based learning activities and a \$5,000 in scholarship.

**A Culture of Care.** Are part of a cohort-based model and a community of support that includes faculty, staff, community partners, and their peers. Receive academic counseling, social-emotional supports, and leadership development activities to help them succeed.

**Work-Based Learning, Civic Engagement and Leadership Development.** Complete at least 10 hours per week or 40 hours per month of work-based learning with a nonprofit or grassroots community-based organization and gain experience in community organizing and advocacy over a nine-month period.





I. COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (1)

II. COMMUNITY-BASED IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES (4)

III. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (4)

IV. PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH (2)

V. LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL CHANGE (7)

VI. LANGUAGE JUSTICE (2)







## The Why

### For the Community:

- There is a severe shortage of quality, affordable immigration legal services available for low-income immigrant communities, despite ever-growing demand.
- Immigration laws are complex and constantly evolving making it difficult for those directly impacted to navigate it and be successful on their own.
- Immigration system does not provide court-appointed counsel to immigrants facing deportation who are unable to afford a lawyer.

### For Our Fellows:

- Young people from historically marginalized communities are often unaware of career opportunities at nonprofits and community-based organizations, especially in the immigration legal services field.
- There is a broad lack of awareness that non-attorneys can earn accreditation through the Department of Justice (DOJ) to become legal representatives for immigrants, a career path that can be highly accessible for community college graduates.

### For Community Colleges:

- Community colleges often lack capacity to provide paid fellowship opportunities, internships, training, and exposure to careers in this field for their students.

### For Community Partners:

- Community-based organizations serving immigrants are in great need of well-trained workers, especially those who can identify with communities they serve.
- Only 37% of all immigrants and 14% of detained immigrants go to court with lawyers on their side.
- Over 2 million undocumented people may be eligible for some form of relief and not know it.
- A recent study concluded that on average for every non profit attorney there are 3,158 undocumented people in the U.S.





## Leveraging Non attorneys to Help More People

**Using Department of Justice Recognition and Accreditation (DOJ R&A) as a tool that allows non attorneys based at nonprofit agencies to practice immigration law, anecdotally DOJ Accredited Reps:**

- Come from directly impacted communities
- Have direct life experiences of navigating the immigration system
- Will have established family ties and roots to the local communities they serve
- Have had obstacles preventing them from accessing law school
- Bilingual/multilingual

### **Recognition**

- Permits nonprofit agency to host non-attorneys practicing law (accredited reps)

### **Accreditation**

- Permits non attorney volunteers or staff of Recognized agencies to practice law, two types of representatives:
- Partial- represent people before Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Full- represent people before DHS and Immigration Courts





## Our Program: Community-Based Immigration Legal Services Career Pathway

- Our program introduces students to the possibility of DOJ Accreditation through a nine-month fellowship program.
- Fellows take CLINIC's Comprehensive Overview of Immigration Law 8-week course. ( needed for pathway to Becoming an Accredited Rep)
  - Upon completion of the course, the fellows who pass the COIL finals will receive a certificate from CLINIC.
- Fellows also get to have hands on experience at a DOJ Accredited community- based organization in their local communities working 10-20 hours a week needed for pathway to becoming an Accredited Rep.
- Fellows regularly meet with us to discuss how they are doing.
- Fellows receive rewarded up to \$10,000 in stipends and \$5,000 in scholarships
- Since we have started a year ago, we have had 41 students graduate from our program
  - Our students have moved on to going to law school, working at DOJ Accredited community-based organization, transferring to a 4- year university, and completing their AA degree





## Community-Based Legal Services Partners

YMCA of Los Angeles

Pomona Economic Opportunity Center

Catholic Charities of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties CHIRLA

CARECEN

International Rescue Committee AI

Otro Lado





# CYLC-LATTC-CDTech Community Planning and Economic Development Career Pathway

- **CDTech** - non-profit founded in 1995 focused on addressing economic inequities in South Los Angeles and raising the next generation of CED leaders. Founded CPED Program
- **Community Planning & Economic Development Program, LATTC** Program Learning outcomes focus on learning multiple planning-based approaches to addressing systemic issues impacting low-income communities. Students can complete 21 units for a Certificate of Achievement or 60 units for an Associate of Arts Degree.

**The Partnership:** The CYLC-LATTC-CDTech Fellowship Program is a collaboration between California Youth Leadership Corps, CDTech, the Community Planning & Economic Development Program (CPED) and LATTC which aim to train up and coming community leaders and advocates who would like to specialize in community development & economic justice issues in Los Angeles.





## CYLC-LATTC-CDTech Center Team

### CYLC Career Pathway in Community Planning & Economic

#### Development:

- Pursuit in a postsecondary degree or certificate in Community Planning & Economic Development
- Paid work based learning at community planning & economic development organization
- Partner Organizations include: Ultimate Restoration Unlimited, CONEXION, Artivists United, AFRECA + more
- Strong network of non-profit partners for networking & employment opportunities
- Personal & Professional Development trainings
- Student Club and Campus Leadership Activities

#### CDTech-LATTC Academic Services to Support Student Success:

- Enrollment & Financial Aid support
- Bilingual language support for Spanish speakers
- Student Support Grants (i.e. Change Reaction)
- Referrals to on & off-campus services

### CLP-CYLC Team

Mandie Torres

She/hers  
CYLC Program Manager

Shelia Balque

She/hers  
CYLC Senior Program  
Director

Jamie Hall

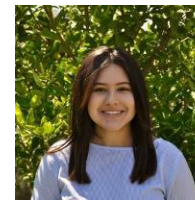
He/his  
CYLC Program Associate for  
Career Services

Kenny Solorio

He/his  
CYLC Program Director

### CDTech-LATTC College Leads

Paolina Cuevas



She/hers CYLC  
Site Program  
Manager

John Eleby



He/his  
CPED Program Manager  
CYLC Site Coordinator

**CD TECH**  
CREATING COMMUNITIES THAT WORK

**LATTC**  
LOS ANGELES TRADE-TECHNICAL COLLEGE





## Spring 2024 CYLC-CPED Graduates





## CYLC Environmental Justice Career Pathway

California continues to be on the frontline of climate change and climate mitigation. The CYLC Environmental Justice Learn-and-Earn Career Pathway prepares young adults to become highly-skilled and trained organizers, change agents, and leaders who will contribute to building resilient communities around issues of climate change and climate justice. Students complete a 9 month fellowship that consists of work based learning at a community based organization in their community. **Our program is currently at three sites in California: West Los Angeles College, Mt. San Antonio College and Fullerton College.**







## Academic Preparation

- Campuses are offering Environmental Studies AA's and or Climate Studies Certification to deepen students knowledge and ability to organize across EJ issues impacting their communities.
- Faculty are working to integrate Sustainability into course content to increase students knowledge of Sustainability concepts. For example Mt. SAC has Green Leaf Courses across subjects like: Psychology, Political Science, Sign Language, Film and Music.
- Courses also are deepening Climate Literacy of fellows across all majors and expanding advocates in our communities.





## Environmental Justice Partnerships

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Chisholm Legacy Project</li><li>2. The Center for Climate Education at West Los Angeles College</li><li>3. USGBC-Green Building Corp.</li><li>4. Green Arrow Co-Labs</li><li>5. The LA Neighborhood Land Trust</li><li>6. Rising Communities</li><li>7. SOW Collective</li><li>8. The Niles Foundation</li><li>9. Amigos De Los Rio</li><li>10. Communities for A Better Environment</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>11. Friends of Ballona Wetlands</li><li>12. Nature Nexus</li><li>13. Food Cycle</li><li>14. Eco Dorm</li><li>15. Humma.AI</li><li>16. Youth Climate Strike LA</li><li>17. Garden School Foundation</li><li>18. Heal the Bay</li><li>19. Grades of Green</li></ol> |
|---|---|





## Advancing Leadership Skills

- Fellows will take 20 hours of community organizing modules to deepen their knowledge of environmental justice issues and sharpen their leadership and problem-solving skills. This specialized training provided by the nationally recognized The Chisholm Legacy Project will be offered virtually.
- These online modules will compliment what fellows are learning at their placements by providing more local examples that uplift how California communities are leading the way on Climate Action.



## Building Today for a Better Tomorrow

Ben Stapleton

*Executive Director  
USGBC California*



# Introducing SoCalREN's Workforce, Education, & Training Opportunity Hub

Wendy Angel

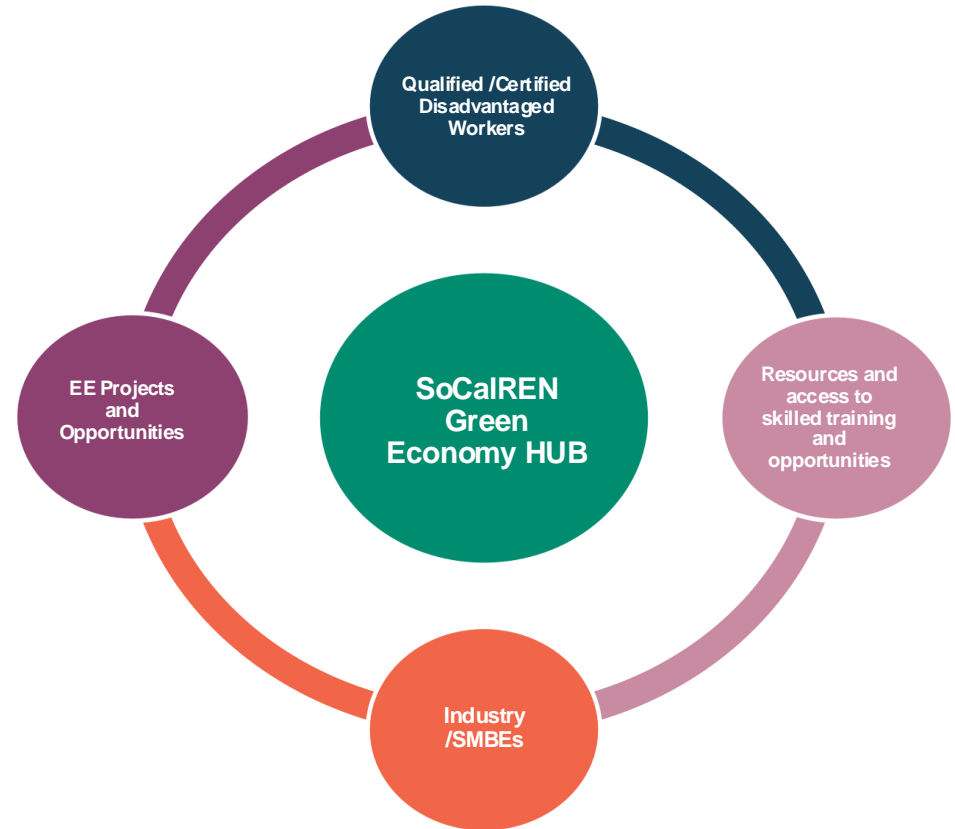
*Southern California Regional Director  
Emerald Cities Collaborative*



# WE&T Opportunity Hub

The WE&T Opportunity Hub **connects contractors and workers to jobs and opportunities.**

Organizes the infrastructure needed to connect SoCalREN's small and minority contractors and disadvantaged workers to capacity- building resources and opportunities.



# Opportunity Hub

*All WE&T programs access Hub services.*

## **Resource Library**

Centralized source to provide **tools**, templates, and information to support small contractors in managing and growing their businesses.

## **Training Center**

Training Center offering specialized **education** aimed at improving skills for contractors and job seekers. These will be on demand in the form of modules, videos or live learning.

## **Marketplace**

The Marketplace/Opportunity clearing house will serve as the hub for small contractors, and individual workers can find relevant projects, **bid opportunities**, **job postings**, etc.



# Closing Remarks

