

## Regional Workforce Alliance Q1 Meeting

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022  
12 noon–1 pm

Zoom Link: [Regional Workforce Alliance - Zoom](#)

Password: HWw5Y\$45

### Meeting Attendance

**Alliance Partners:** Armen Ross, Pam Bold, Wade Martin, Angela Gibson, Gary Johnson, Daritza Gonzalez, Aydin Pasebani, Ben Stapleton, Makeeta Birdsong, Patricia Castellanos & Jose Gardea

**Staff Present:** Wendy Angel, Sheena Tran, Lujana Medina, Minh Le, Ann D'Amato, Tabaris Smith, Joseph Warner, Janet Ramirez, Angela Gibson & Vivian Soto

#### I. Welcome

- A. Minh Le, General Manager Energy and Environmental Services County of Los Angeles, Internal Services Department (ISD)
  - i. Kicked off meeting by providing a warm welcome and path forward
- B. Lujana Medina, Environmental Initiatives Manager County of Los Angeles, ISD
  - i. Provided overview of Alliance resources and future opportunities
- C. Wendy Angel, Southern California Regional Director, Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC)
  - i. Shared SoCalREN/ECC updates

#### II. Introduction

- A. Sheena Tran, Program Manager, ISD
  - i. Presented meeting agenda and initiated Alliance Partners introductions
- B. Wendy Angel
  - i. Shared meeting objectives and mission statement
    1. Launch regional multi-stakeholder Alliance to create career and business pathways into the Energy Efficiency Sector

#### III. EDA Good Jobs Challenge Grant Proposal

- A. Sheena Tran
  - i. Presented proposal update and overview
    1. Proposal submitted on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 which includes:
      - a. \$500M for Good Jobs Challenge
      - b. Awards to be \$5-25 million each
      - c. End Goal is to provide good paying jobs
      - d. EDA is looking to **bring employers** who have hiring needs with other key entities to **train workers** with in-demand skills
    2. Shared insight on proposed program
      - a. **SoCal GREEN Careers Accelerator**
        - i. Program's objective is to advance equity within vulnerable communities

- ii. Goal is to place 1,600 individuals in high quality jobs
- b. Program Model
  - i. Key Elements: Regional Workforce Alliance, Training, Opportunities, Workforce
  - ii. Proposed program will help eliminate barriers to successful completion of program
- c. Program Design
  - i. Three sectors: Zero Emissions Transportation, Clean Energy, Smart & Sustainable Cities
  - ii. Tag line: Equip, Connect and Employ

B. Lujana Medina

- i. Commented on the role and commitment of Advisory Committee
  - 1. First step to a long-term future of clean energy workforce
  - 2. Shared the possibility of not being awarded the EDA Grant
  - 3. Explained how the County is prioritizing workforce system and setting a national precedent

IV. **Workforce Education & Training (WE&T) Portfolio-Program 2021 Updates**

A. Wendy Angel

- i. Shared Southern California Regional Network's variety of sectors
  - 1. Workforce Education & Training (WE&T) Overview
    - a. E-Contractor Training Program is designed to prepare small and diverse contractors to compete for energy efficiency projects and increase their capacity
      - i. 85 contractors are currently enrolled and receiving technical assistance
    - b. Green Path Careers
      - i. Wendy explained Program Model and presented updates
        - 1. Emphasized foster youth and justice impacted youth
    - c. ACES Program
      - i. Shared community college partnerships

B. Dr. Wade Martin, CSULB

- i. Asked a recruitment question
  - 1. Where does ECC recruit participants?
    - a. ECC leverages partnerships e.g., California Conversation Core, outreach events, etc.
  - 2. Does the rebrand effect the service area?
    - a. SoCalREN is focused on the regional approach
    - b. There are energy efficiency limitations, and their dollars are siloed

V. **SoCalREN 2024 – 2031 Business Plan**

A. Lujana Medina and Wendy Angel

- i. How do we assist the vulnerable communities? Details on expanding resources addressed
- ii. Once infrastructure dollars are allocated, how do we support the Energy Efficiency demand? Identify tactics and strategies to meet the WE&T sector gaps and develop a strong system to connect the dots
- iii. Proposed Budget
  - 1. Requesting an average of \$3 million annually over the next 8 years
- iv. Grant amount approved will be disclosed June 2023
- v. Brief introduction on WE&T Opportunity Hub
  - 1. Participants will have direct access to supportive services
- vi. The Opportunity Hub will help small contractors execute larger projects
- vii. Dr. Wade Martin asked a clarification question regarding entrepreneurs who are starting a business
  - 1. Tabaris Smith explained the E-Contractor Program
- viii. Introduction WE&T Agriculture Program
  - 1. Program helps build and train agricultural service providers

VI. **Next Steps**

- A. Future collaboration
- B. New grant opportunity
  - i. Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) Grant Program

VII. **Adjournment**

- A. Next Quarterly Meeting TBD