HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES CLOSES THE FINANCIAL LITERACY KNOWLEDGE GAP FOR FORMERLY INCARCERATED

Friends Outside in Los Angeles County (FOLA) and the Boyle Heights WorkSource Center partnered on leading a financial literacy workshop for LA:RISE participants at Homeboy Industries (HBI). Due to their experiences with incarceration, many HBI clients never received any education on the importance of financial literacy. At the onset of the workshop, participants expressed a large knowledge gap in essential life skills such as setting up a bank account. Clients learned details around bank account eligibility, the importance of credit, and specifically how to improve a low credit score. For HBI's LA:RISE participants, the workshop was an empowerment tool in understanding how financial literacy can impact their lives and first steps towards building a foundation for themselves and their families. This workshop was a vital step in supporting Justice System Involved LA:RISE participants on their journey to move forward in life after incarceration.

PARTNER VOICE

"I have been involved with LA:RISE since its first cohort. In that time, I have seen the program grow to meet participants' needs, like with the development of the LA:RISE Youth Academy initiative in recent years. This has been a vital addition for our participants, enabling our staff to better support participants through additional services. Working with a young, vulnerable population is challenging, but it has also been rewarding to support these emerging adults in building their work experience through paid hours and supportive services."

— JACQUELINE HARPER, HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CAREER PATHWAYS

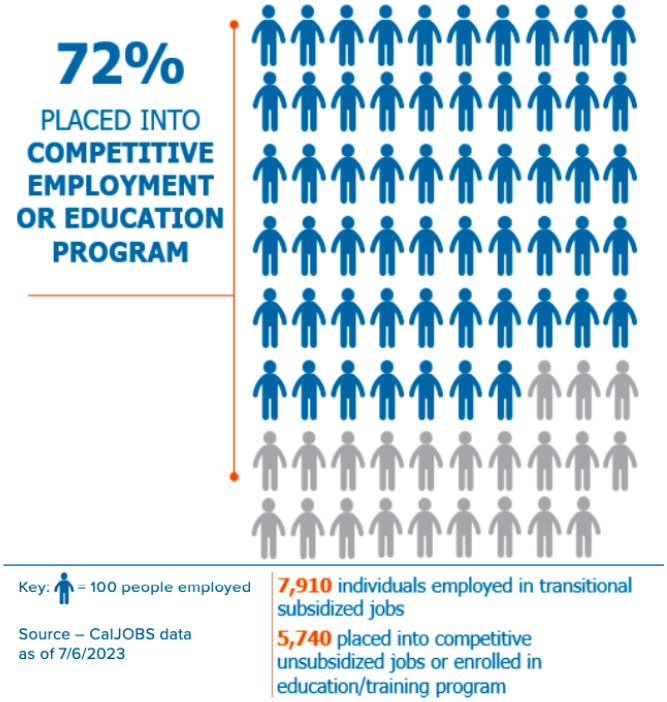
Q3 LA:RISE ACADEMY FOCUSES ON PEOPLE WITH JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

Since 2018, LA:RISE has served 2,430 people with Justice System Involvement. During the March LA:RISE Academy Meeting, the session focused on supporting Justice System Involved LA:RISE participants who face significant barriers to employment, including unstable housing, conviction records, and a lack of access to public benefits. Eva Delair, Deputy Director of Root and Rebound Reentry Advocates, facilitated a powerful and engaging reentry workshop. LA:RISE partners received information on upcoming changes to the Fair Chance Act, guidance on common misconceptions when navigating employers and employment opportunities, as well as insights into the record expungement process. The impact of this session will benefit LA:RISE partners and participants systemwide, translating into stronger placements, and empowered individuals who know their rights.

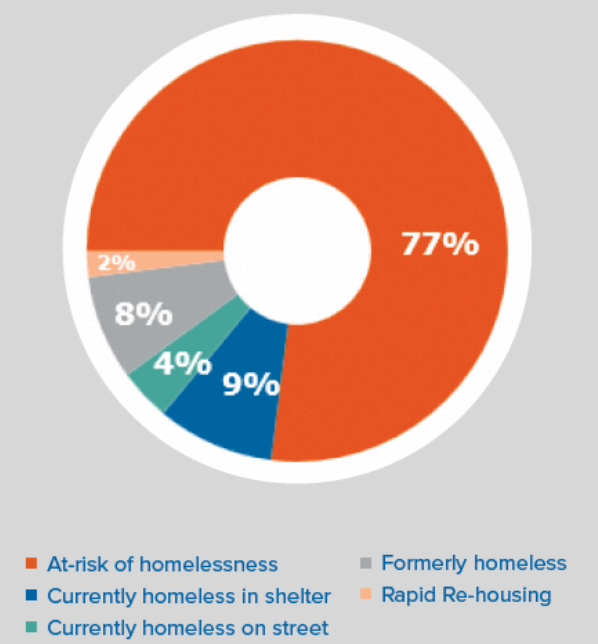
AT THE CENTER FOR LIVING AND LEARNING LA:RISE PARTICIPANTS ARE TRAINED IN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Fourteen LA:RISE participants completed training in "Mental Health First Aid USA" at the Center for Living and Learning (CLL). The training provided meaningful skill building relevant to their employment goals in substance abuse treatment centers or homeless service agencies. The 7.5 hour course trained LA:RISE participants to recognize the patterns of thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and appearance that demonstrate a potential mental health challenge. Successful completion of the training and exam awarded participants with a valid three-year industry recognized certification. This training was also completed by CLL staff and will continue to be offered to LA:RISE participants every month for the rest of the year.

TOTAL CITY AND COUNTY PARTICIPANTS EMPLOYED, PROGRAM YEARS 1.0 TO 8.0 (2015-2023)



Housing Status at Program Enrollment



Source: CalJOBS self-reported data from 8.0 program year participants.

PORSHA, UCLA YOUTHSOURCE CENTER

After foster care, Porsha had challenges finding a job given her justice system experience -- creating housing instability for her and her infant son. She joined the LA:RISE Youth Academy through the UCLA YouthSource Center (YSC), where she started a paid internship, and got access to infant essentials, like diapers, for her son. UCLA YSC also guided her through the steps to expunge her record. Porsha is completing a paid peer support certification, beginning coursework at a local community college, and intends to return to provide mentorship to other youth in the LA:RISE Youth Academy. She is considering a career working with foster youth.

STEVEN, GOOD SOIL INDUSTRIES + RIO HONDO AJCC

Steven was experiencing housing instability when he enrolled in LA:RISE at Good Soil Industries and Rio Hondo AJCC. At the time, he was taking care of his nephew while his sister worked to keep them housed. Steven began employment at the California Conservation Corps and is now able to contribute to keeping himself, his nephew, and his sister housed. Additionally, he has been able to pay down his debts, improving his financial standing - a goal he set at the beginning of his LA:RISE journey.

LA:RISE is managed by the City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD), Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), and REDF (Roberts Enterprise Development Fund).

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