LA:RISE CLOSES ITS NINTH PROGRAM YEAR

The Los Angeles Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise (LA:RISE) closed its ninth program year on June 30, 2024. What began in 2015 as 12 service providers, has expanded to 36 - with six WorkSource Centers, five YouthSource Centers, 12 America's Job Centers of California, 16 Employment Social Enterprises, and one Job Readiness Support Provider. These agencies and organizations have united the City and County of Los Angeles to help Angelenos facing high barriers to employment strive for a better future. This program provides them with jobs, training, and the support they need to be successful in the next chapter of their lives.

PARTNER VOICE

"We have no words to express our respect and appreciation for the LA:RISE Youth Academy. It is a unique model with an extraordinary transformational program that reaches our community of unhoused, disconnected youth. El Proyecto del Barrio serves hundreds of unhoused youths who need temporary housing and jobs. Before LA:RISE, it was a challenge to keep these young adults in other programs that did not have the same support as the LA:RISE Youth Academy.

The LA:RISE initiative proves that with the right support, and a youth program like El Proyecto, these young adults can achieve a brighter future. We are proud of the successes youth in our program have seen, from jobs as independent contractors, small business owners, health sector professionals, retail, security, and private sector work. I am proud to be part of their journeys."

— HAIMANOT FEKADU, MBA
Program Director,
El Proyecto del Barrio
YouthSource Center

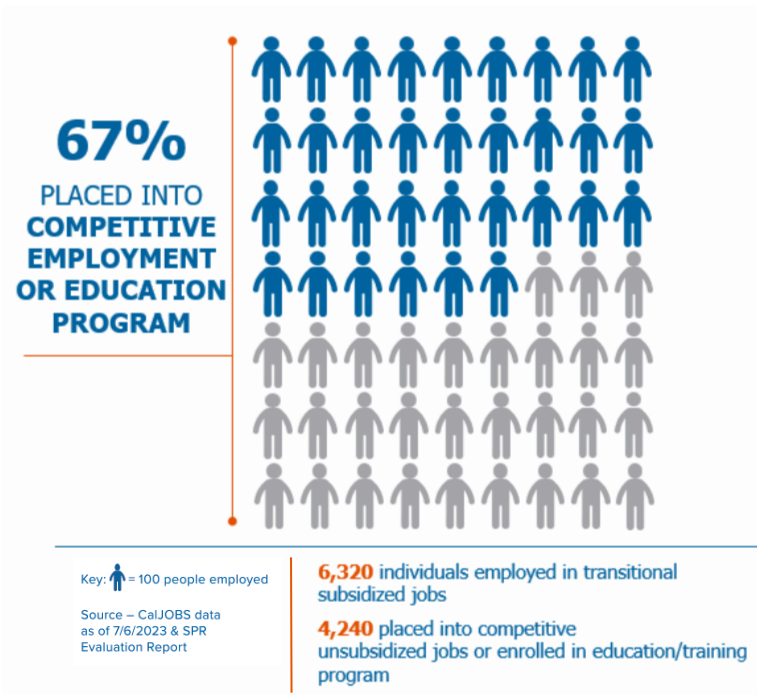
GRID ALTERNATIVES GRADUATION + JOB FAIR

One of GRID Alternatives' key training programs is the Installation Basics Training (IBT), a competency-based certificate program designed to develop the skills needed for entry-level solar installation jobs and related construction employment fields. This past April, IBT graduates showcased their solar installation skills to potential employers in a live demonstration and job fair at the GRID Alternatives warehouse. LA:RISE graduates of the program earned industry-recognized certificates with hands-on training and access to employment opportunities. Participants' success in the program was recognized in a graduation ceremony on April 10th, 2024.

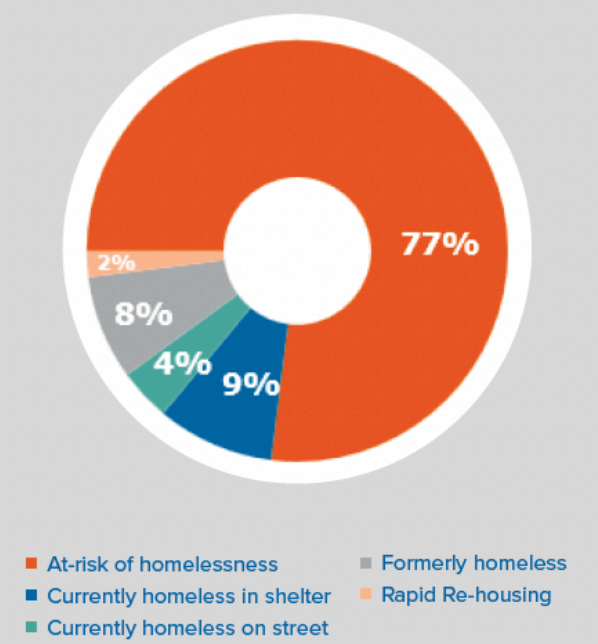
LA LGBT CENTER HOSTS LOCAL ESE LEADERS

This past June, Nicholas Panepinto, Director of Culinary Training and Operations at the LA LGBT Center, led a walkthrough for local Employment Social Enterprise (ESE) leaders at their McCadden Place location in Hollywood. LA:RISE participants showcased their skills in a live demonstration led by the culinary program's executive chef. LA:RISE participants' job training begins with 100 hours of culinary bootcamp where they develop skills they need to work in a commercial kitchen, followed by 100 hours making meals for the community, an important piece as it gives them the chance to immediately give back to their peers, and concludes with 100 hours completing an internship at a local restaurant. "We work very closely with the City and County to work on programs like this where we realize that curing the homeless crisis in Los Angeles isn't just about providing basic shelter, it's about providing skills to get people back their pride, to get people back their self-esteem, and to give people a path to economic stability where they can help get stable housing on their own," said Panepinto.

TOTAL CITY 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.

BETH ANN, DOWNTOWN WOMEN'S CENTER

Beth Ann has faced many difficult experiences in her life such as prior gang involvement, incarceration, substance abuse, and domestic violence that led to the loss of her leg and home. The Downtown Women's Center (DWC) offered a chance to gain paid, on-the-job training in a supportive environment. In addition to training and guidance in financial literacy, computer skills, and executive function skills, Ann noted that her interactions with others at DWC gave her a level of confidence she hadn't previously experienced. She is now enrolled in college with big plans for her future. "I plan on majoring in Psychology. I am going to focus on staying in the Human Services field because of the strong love and compassion I have for others," stated Ann.

BRYANA, LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER

At the Los Angeles LGBT Center, Bryana enrolled in the Social Services Vocational Program, learning industry fundamentals, job application skills, and earning professional certifications. Their internship at The Social Impact Center, Burbank's premier LGBTQIA+ resource facility, helped Bryana gain stability in their life. "I feel happier, more stable, and more sure of what I want. There is still some struggle, but I find comfort in the support from the LA LGBT Center." Bryana graduated from the LA:RISE Youth Academy and is now working in a residential treatment center for people with mental health and substance use issues.

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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