



August 18, 2020

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
821 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: LA:RISE FY20-21 Budget Cuts

Dear Supervisor Kuehl,

On behalf of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and over 800 of our member organizations, **we urge you to restore funding for employment services, job creation, and the Los Angeles: Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise (LA:RISE), in the Measure H funding recommendations for the coming year.** The funding LA:RISE receives, is critical to Los Angeles County's initiatives to tackle homelessness and is essential in helping vulnerable Angelenos find and retain job opportunities to keep them off the streets. The proposed funding cuts to the C2/C7 Measure H budget would be devastating to LA:RISE, along with all workforce and employment services. **The loss of funds will deprive over 1,000 county residents of transitional employment and intensive wrap-around services.**

LA:RISE reported that over 59% of our homeless population state that job loss was the main contributing factor. The program has proven success in reducing subsidized housing needs and decreasing the County's homeless population by ensuring those experiencing homelessness have access to skill-building programs, job networks, and essential support to help them navigate their new career. Failure to invest in this program could have long-term consequences for county residents and the budget.

LA:RISE is now in its fifth year helping the most vulnerable Angelenos get on a long term path to economic stability. **To date nearly 4,000 LA:RISE participants have secured transitional employment and the program has placed over 50% of all LA:RISE participants into competitive unsubsidized employment.** With COVID-19's impact leaving 3.8 million (and growing) Angelenos without jobs, the unemployed community needs guidance now more than ever. The County of Los Angeles must continue to invest in more workforce development and employment programs.

It is understood that the loss of tax revenue due to COVID-19 means programs will be cut, but completely eliminating funding for employment services, including cutting LA:RISE, is not the right response. As you work with the fellow Supervisors to evaluate the necessary FY21 budget cuts, we respectfully urge you to invest in this proactive approach in keeping people off the streets and maintain the LA:RISE current funding level of \$7 million. If you have any questions please contact Carli Olson, Director of Public Policy and Economic Development, at carli@hollywoodchamber.net or (323)785-1761 ext. 115.

Sincerely,

Rana Ghadban
President & CEO