

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Esteemed members of the City Council Budget and Finance Committee, My name is Maegan Ortiz and I am the Executive Director of the Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California, IDEPSCA. We operate 5 out of the 7 Day Labor Centers in the City of Los Angeles. Prior to the pandemic we connected the over 1,000 day laborers registered to the program to thousands of jobs. While Day Laborers perform essential jobs, they do not have access to the safety net nor health and safety protections that other workers do. This means that we also had to become a relief provider and we have served at least 1,000 hot meals, given out hundred of grocery bags and provided direct financial relief to immigrant workers - as well as connecting workers to city resources like the Angeleno Card. We have had day laborers in the hospital and some who have died. As the city looks to recover - we understand the need for the city to make cuts for the coming fiscal year. We are pleased that the Day Labor Program was included in the Mayor's Budget and thank Mayor Garcetti for that. However, the nearly 200k cut proposed means less ability to provide support to a sector of workers who do not and will not have access to the same federal, state and city support as other sectors and workers. The day labor centers and their staff are that support. We ask that the City Council restore the Day Labor Program budget under the Economic and Workforce Development Department to current fiscal year level. Even this won't be enough to address the needs of low wage immigrant workers. We hope you share our belief that a city can be judged by how it supports its most vulnerable members and we need to support day ;aborers who will face more wage theft, more health and safety exposures and more challenges to find work in a post-COVID 19 Los Angeles. Please make the day labor center program whole.