

Draft Letter from the WCAC

Dear Colleagues:

As directed by Chapter 30 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, our Workforce Community Advisory Committee (WCAC) serves in an advisory capacity to Workforce Investment San Francisco (WISF) and the Committee on City Workforce Alignment ("Alignment Committee") on workforce development system priorities, client needs and services.

We bring a valuable perspective to the City's strategic planning conversations regarding workforce development: that of trusted nonprofit partner and direct service provider with an intimate knowledge of local residents' barriers to employment. At a time when unemployment is at historic lows in the City, we have a unique insight into the challenges facing our residents who struggle to break free from the cycle of poverty.

At recent WCAC meetings, starting in the fall of 2016, our members have discussed strategies needed for the continued improvement of the City's workforce development system. We agree with the recommended strategies, actions and data outlined in this Plan and find that they are very useful – they reflect a system that requires a diverse set of tools and partnerships to appropriately serve constituents of different backgrounds, challenges and goals.

To meet the needs of our most vulnerable local residents, all system stakeholders must have:

- Convenient access to tools, resources and services;
- Laddered, contextualized goals and objectives for client development;
- Coordinated service options that incentivize and maintain engagement, no matter how long it takes for client goals to be reached;
- Strategies and tools for measuring both short and long-term client success, including livable wages and job retention;
- Coordinated funding and reporting requirements to maximize system investments; and
- Strategies aligned with employer and sector demand to create real opportunities for residents, including:
 - A commitment from the City to prioritize the hiring of successful graduates from workforce development programs; and
 - A commitment from corporate and private businesses to partner with nonprofits to create successful pathways and workforce development programs.

Nonprofit service providers play a critical role in San Francisco's workforce development system. We look forward to strengthening our partnerships with the City and County of San Francisco to act on the recommendations outlined in this Plan. Together we can ensure that all local residents have access to sustainable career pathways that allow them to live in the city, care for their children and be stewards of their community.

In partnership,

The Workforce Community Advisory Committee (WCAC)

