

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO.
December 2, 2025

Establishing a Career Center Program at the Century Regional Detention Center (CRDF)

In October 2018, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion¹ directing the Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), now the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) to conduct a feasibility analysis on implementing a Jail-Based Job Center (Job Center) at the Los Angeles women's jail Century Regional Detention Center (CRDF). The follow up motion², which passed in June of 2019, established a two-year Job Center pilot program at CRDF. The pilot program had its inaugural cohort in February of 2021, and while navigating the challenges of the pandemic, a few cohorts of women were able to participate in the pilot program before it ended in November of 2022. During the pilot phase, 141 participants enrolled, 91 completed job readiness training, 25 completed skills training in construction or technology, and 25 obtained employment post release. DEO conducted a review of the pilot with recommendations for enhancing the program model going forward.

When AB109 passed in 2011, the bill effectively shifted responsibility for certain

¹ "[Establishing a Jail-Based Job Center at Century Regional Detention Facility](#)" Kuehl/Ridley-Thomas. October 16, 2018.

² "[Implementing a Jail-Based Job Center Pilot Program at Century Regional Detention Facility for Women](#)" Kuehl/Ridley-Thomas. June 25, 2019.

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populations of incarcerated individuals from the state to the counties. Along with this new responsibility came annual State funds, known as AB 109 funds. The responsibility of allocating the funds in Los Angeles County lies within the Chief Executive Office (CEO), which makes recommendations to the Board for final approval, with the Public Safety Realignment Team (PSRT) submitting funding recommendations to CEO that inform the budget process. The PSRT supported a proposal by DEO and LASD to reinstitute the CRDF Career Center services, with the Board ultimately approving an allocation of ongoing AB 109 funding in fiscal year 2023-2024 for the continuation of workforce development services for those incarcerated at CRDF. Although there is a current allocation of \$1.2 million in ongoing AB109 funding for these services, DEO and LASD have not yet reestablished a workforce development program for the incarcerated population at CRDF.

Providing women and gender expansive individuals with career services while incarcerated can make a meaningful impact on their chance of succeeding after being released. Research demonstrates that having a job reduces recidivism, and people with full time employment are less likely to commit a crime.³ These data points and the findings of the pilot review demonstrate the need for intentional career center services and support for women incarcerated at CRDF that recognize the limitations of the environment and leverage all partners and capacity available to ensure successful participation while incarcerated and continued engagement post-release. The goal of the original motion that established the Job Center pilot was to eventually create a permanent Job Center at CRDF, and the County should move quickly to do just that.

It is also important that the County uses all resources available to support

³ [“A better path forward for criminal justice: Training and employment for correctional populations”](#)

incarcerated individuals and leaves no money left on the table. Since the Job Center pilot ended in 2022, the population of women and gender expansive individuals who are at CRDF has changed because of the pandemic, an increase in the mental health population, and shifts in the criminal justice landscape with laws like Proposition 36. With the population continuing to evolve, this leaves the need to evaluate the program as it progresses by ensuring that the County includes relevant stakeholders and insight from commissions like the Gender Responsive Advisory Commission (GRAC) to improve the program. The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has received funding from AB 109 earmarked for a Career Center at CRDF, and those funds should be used expeditiously to ensure the incarcerated population at CRDF receives robust and comprehensive career development services that builds off of learnings from the pilot phase, considers changes in the CRDF population, and engages key stakeholders for insights to refine and finalize the program model.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, to:

1. Establish a Career Center Services program at the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF), building off of learnings from the prior pilot program and engagement of key stakeholders, and utilizing the ongoing AB 109 funding that was allocated for this purpose;
2. Collaborate with the Gender Responsive Advisory Committee (GRAC) to establish Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the CRDF Career Center program including, but not limited to:
 - a. Number of individuals completing programming in-custody,

- b. Number of individuals that receive incentive payments and complete the program after they are released,
 - c. Number of individuals connected with employment after participating in the program, and
 - d. Number of individuals not returning to the justice system upon exit from the program;
- 3. Evaluate the program two years after it is implemented at CRDF to assess where the program can be improved. The evaluation should include data on program KPIs identified under directive 2, and collect stakeholder feedback on the program from incarcerated individuals, formerly incarcerated individuals, and community providers; and
- 4. Report back in writing within 60 days on the progress of the implementation on directive 1 and within one year of program launch on the status of implementation and outcomes to date.

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JH:kc/ap