



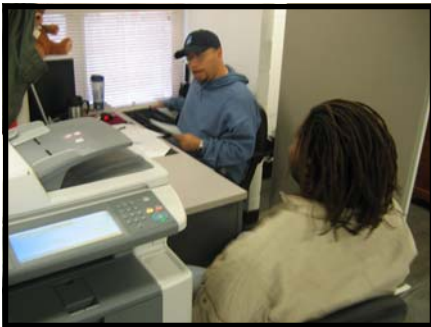
LITE

Living Independently Through Employment

The Need:

On any given night in Los Angeles County, there are an estimated 73,702 homeless persons living on the streets or shelters of Los Angeles County. Of that number, 54% of those individuals live in the City of Los Angeles with over 22,000 in the Metro Los Angeles area.

The employment rate of this group is 7%, with half of those individuals reporting an income of \$350 dollars or less per month. Unemployment is the leading cause of homelessness.



Background:

The City of Los Angeles Community Development Department (CDD) has made a consistent effort to serve special populations since the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was initiated. With an initial focus on persons with disabilities, the City has expanded its focus to include individuals that are chronically homeless through funding received from the Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). Building on the success of its ODEP project, the City has established a point of entry, "portal plus," that links the Skid Row service providers with the Workforce Development System. This blending

of CDBG and DOL resources takes a proactive approach to increasing the income of this population through wages, benefits or a combination of both, with employment being a critical component.

Partners:

The City of Los Angeles and the Skid Row Development Corporation (SRDC) are working in partnership with the Volunteers of America (VOA) to provide an employment portal linked to the WorkSource California Career Centers.

The LITE project is a collaboration of seven other public and private agencies, each playing a unique role within the project. The partners include: Metro North WorkSource Center, Hollywood WorkSource Center located at People Helping The Homeless (PATH) Mall, Chrysalis, SRO Housing, Inc., Human Solutions LLC, LAMP Community, and Mental Health Advocacy Services.

Service Delivery:

Community and faith-based organizations in the Skid Row area refer individuals that are homeless to the SRDC/VOA portal, located at on San Julian Street. Additionally, outreach occurs at the Los Angeles County Twin Tower Jail facility for individuals who may end up into the Skid Row area post-release.

The portal provides both self-directed and staff-assisted services. Self-directed services include computer access for job search, registration with the California Employment Development Department, computer skill tutorials, job fairs, and posted job leads. Employment specialists from LITE and the Workforce Development System provide staff-assisted services, such as resume writing and interviewing workshops.

Those individuals unemployed for a significant period of time receive additional training and "brush-up" on employer expectations and office etiquette. Referrals to area GED classes, adult school classes, community college and other long-term vocational training programs are also available. Short-term certification programs, including HAZ-MAT and Forklift Certification training, are available.

The portal also provides a skills-based work "stipend" program for job seekers that need additional assistance *fine-tuning* their job skills. During the two-week stipend period, the WorkSource system will work with the job seeker to transition them into an on-the-job training program or to available employment. Job seekers will receive practice interview opportunities and clothing to enhance their marketability in the workplace.

The goal of the SRDC/VOA portal and this multi-agency collaboration is to incorporate employment services with other community supports, such as legal and medical assistance, housing, and governmental assistance, in order to assist job seekers who are homeless to successfully reintegrate into their communities.





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Employment

LITE staff, in partnership with WorkSource California, develop an individualized employment plan for each job seeker accessing the SRDC/VOA portal. Employment services are tailored to best meet the job seeker's needs by assessing the client's skills and abilities, work history and career interests.

Clients may choose to attend school, attain a GED, volunteer, participate in vocational training or go directly to work. Participants move forward at their own pace, based on their plan, and are then referred to the WorkSource Center for job placement services and follow-up.

SRDC/VOA Portal

The SRDC/VOA portal is open six days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The portal includes five internet-ready computer stations, a copier, fax machine, telephones for employer

contacts, and Community Voicemail for call-backs from the employer. Assistive technology and software are available to assist job seekers with disabilities.

Interested job seekers may attend various workshops provided both English in Spanish that include: orientation, computer classes, and pre-employment skills. Career assessments are also available to assist job seekers in identifying employment interests.



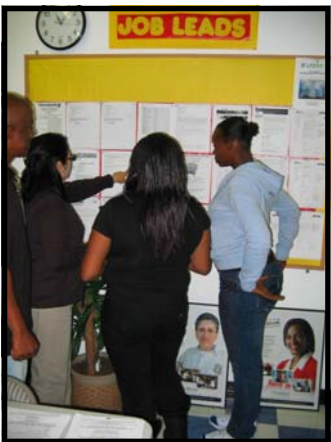
New Image Portal

Established in January 2004, the New Image EmployABILITY Resource Portal will continue to provide self-directed job search activities during the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

This portal averages 600 plus new and repeat visits a month and provides an important service to those currently working who are not receiving sufficient income to move to permanent housing and are looking for better employment opportunities.

With the addition of services available through the SRDC/VOA portal, these job seekers have access to the workshops, training programs, placement services and other community partner supports.

For more information, please contact Susan Quigley at (213) 744-7183, (213) 744-9395 TTY or susan.quigley@lacity.org.



LITE Project Outcomes as of 12/31/07:	
New Users	300
Repeat Users	828
Job Placements	64
Average Wage at Placement	\$9.81
Registered for/in Training	38
Number of Employers	20