



The City of



Economic Development

MEETING NOTES

San Diego Promise Zone

Jobs and Education Working Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Jan. 22, 2025 | 2:30 – 4:00 PM

Via Zoom | [\(Meeting ID: 160 295 2326\)](#) | [Zoom Meeting Registration Link](#)

Working Group Goals: *Create jobs and improve educational opportunities*

In Attendance

Access (Roshawn Brady), **City of San Diego - Promise Zone** (Amairany Macias, Amber Weber, Chrishael Sanchez, Daniella Salgado, Michele Marano, Roosevelt Williams III), **California Coast Credit Union** (Angel Nolasco), **Core 6** (Jay Bowser), **Elementary Institute of Science** (Sarah Tuakli Cooper), **Father Joes Villages** (Thomas Lovell), **Fleet Science Center** (Eric Meyer, Antonio Becker), **International Rescue Committee** (Roz Butani), **Junior Achievement** (Madeline Bowen), **Logan Heights Community Development Corporation** (William Burties), **National University** (Danielle Stephen), **Neighborhood House Association** (Ernesta Johnson), **Paddle for Peace** (Aiyana Reissman, Risa Bell), **Reality Changers** (Brooke Nurse, Tya Valentine), **Resource Innovations** (Sarah Strametz, Sarah Kennedy-Lopez), **San Diego Workforce Partnership** (LaTanya Runnells), **United Way of San Diego County** (Alyssa Abellar), **Urban Street Angels** (Pedro Estrada Jr), **YMCA of San Diego County** (Shiwani Lata), **Workshops for Warriors** (Ashley Morey)

Meeting Notes

Introductions, Culture Share and Agenda Review

- Co-chair Sarah Tuakli Cooper kicked off the meeting by welcoming partners and reviewing the agenda.
- Guidelines for a respectful and effective meeting were shared and posted in the chat.
- Raquel Aparicio led our culture share: What's a hobby that you have started and are planning to continue in this new year?

Partner Announcements

CalKIDS College Savings Program Outreach

CalKIDS is a California state-funded college savings program providing seed money to help families start saving early for higher education. Eligible children include public school students and children born on or after July 1, 2022. Each eligible child can receive between \$300 and \$2,000, which can later be converted into a 529 college savings plan for continued contributions. Outreach efforts aim to enroll approximately 3,000 youth through partnerships with schools, community-based organizations, and citywide events.

Click the following links to stay connected to the San Diego Promise Zone

[Newsletter](#) | [Website](#) | [Email](#) | (619) 236-6700 | 1200 Third Ave, 14th Floor, San Diego, CA 92101



- Email: jay@core6.org

Youth Higher Education Navigation Program (See attached flyer)

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) San Diego offers free, one-on-one higher education navigation support for immigration-impacted youth ages 17–26, including refugees, immigrants, first-generation students, and English language learners. Services include assistance with college applications, FAFSA and California Dream Act completion, and exploration of college and post-high school pathways.

- Email: roz.butani@rescue.org

Youth Career Program – Healthcare Focus (See attached flyer)

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) San Diego offers a youth career program for individuals ages 18–26 focused on career exploration, job readiness, and employment support. The program is particularly designed for youth interested in healthcare careers, whether they are currently enrolled in college or not.

- Email: reem.faraj@rescue.org

Free Day Camp During School Closures (See attached flyer)

Boys & Girls Clubs of San Diego will host a free day camp on Feb. 26 to support families during school closures related to the teacher strike. The camp will be available at the Encanto Branch and the Logan Heights Branch and is open to both current and new families.

- Email: jbarajas@sdyouth.org

6th Annual Apprenticeship & Vocational Training Expo (See attached flyer)

The San Diego County Office of Education will host the 6th Annual Apprenticeship & Vocational Training Expo on Thursday, March 5, at Mesa College. The event will feature 40–50 registered apprenticeship programs, vocational and affordable training schools, employers actively hiring, nonprofit employment service providers, campus tours, and panel breakout sessions focused on apprenticeship pathways. The event is open to youth and young adults, and organizations are invited to table. Interested organizations are encouraged to reach out to participate.

Workshops for Warriors Gala – Volunteer Opportunity

Workshops for Warriors will host a fundraising gala on April 25 at the USS Midway Museum in support of the veteran community. Volunteers are needed at all levels to assist with event operations, and food will be provided.

- If interested please email: ashley@wfw.org

Alumni Mentorship Program

Reality Changers is seeking community members to serve as mentors for its Alumni Mentorship Program, which pairs mentors with college-aged alumni who are first-generation college students. This program provides ongoing guidance and support to help students succeed in their academic and professional journeys.



- If interested please visit: <https://realitychangers.my.site.com/ANMentor/s/>

Career Exploration Week

Reality Changers will host Career Exploration Week during San Diego Unified School District's spring break from March 30 through April 2. During this week, high school students will visit workplaces across San Diego to gain exposure to different career pathways. Organizations and companies are invited to host small groups of students and provide career exposure activities and staff engagement.

- If interested in hosting please visit: <https://realitychangers.org/cew-application-2026/>

Ocean Safety & Marine Biology Youth Programs

Paddle for Peace offers youth programs focused on ocean safety, marine biology, and leadership development. Programs include in-school programming for 4th and 5th graders at Title I schools, as well as spring break and summer camps for high school students.

- If interested please email: Aiyana@paddleforpeace.org

Cal Coast Financial Wellness Curriculum (See attached flyer)

California Coast Credit Union is launching a six-month **Financial Wellness Curriculum** designed to benefit those served by local nonprofit organizations. Through monthly interactive webinars and expert guidance, community members will learn practical strategies to improve personal financial habits, plan for the future, and expand financial independence. The first class is on Jan. 26. This is an opportunity designed for Promise Zone partners based on community and partner input, and may be shared with staff, volunteers, clients, as well as other organizations.

- Visit calcoastcu.org/financial-wellness-curriculum or scan the QR code on the attached flyer.

Know Your Rights and Resources: Responding to ICE Enforcement Actions

Live Well San Diego will host an Advancing Throughout the Year webinar, "Know Your Rights and Resources: Responding to ICE Enforcement Actions," on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. This virtual event will include employer resources provided by the County of San Diego Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement and a resource panel covering various types of support available. Attendees will:

- Understand employers' rights and obligations under the law during ICE enforcement actions.
- Hear from local leaders about strategies for implementing company policies that protect workers and comply with federal requirements.
- Learn about resources that businesses and community-based organizations can provide their employees or clients.
- Register here: [Know Your Rights and Resources: Responding to ICE Enforcement Actions](#).



Navigating Local Government: City and County Roles Explained (See attached flyer)

You can make a difference in your community by learning about the roles and responsibilities of the City of San Diego and the County of San Diego. Find out whom to contact for different issues and how to communicate with elected officials. The meeting will occur in person at Logan Heights Library on Jan. 27, 2026, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please see the flyer [here](#).

San Diego Regional EDC Offers Free Summer Internships to Nonprofits

Apply to host Summer 2026 interns through the San Diego Regional EDC! Launched in 2019 as part of the region's inclusive growth effort to double the number of skilled workers in San Diego, EDC and its partners organize a regional internship program to offer support to small and mid-sized businesses and nonprofits, and connect San Diego students to valuable work-based learning opportunities. Apply by Feb. 13.

- For more information click [here](#).

San Diego County CORE and BUILD Programs Offer Free Training to Nonprofits (See attached flyers)

The San Diego County/Founders First CDC's CORE Program provides free 1:1 bookkeeping support, funding readiness education, and labor compliance training to help small businesses and nonprofits with 2-10 employees in San Diego County strengthen their operations and improve financial stability. The application deadline for Cohort 2 is Jan. 30, and participants who sign up afterward will be added to Cohort 3. For more info, see the flyer.

The San Diego County/Founders First CDC's BUILD Program supports small businesses and nonprofits in overcoming bonding and insurance barriers when applying for contracts with the County of San Diego. Small businesses and nonprofits that are San Diego County-based, interested in County contracts, and/or new or first-time government contractors are eligible to receive 1:1 coaching with bonding and insurance experts, personalized business assessment, guidance on affordable coverage, subsidies for bonding/insurance, and access to the Funding Readiness program. For more info, see the flyer.

- Apply: foundersfirstcdc.org/sd-county-program

Senior Transportation Support for SD Promise Zone Residents

Traveler's Aid San Diego is offering transportation assistance for seniors living within the San Diego Promise Zone through the Senior Solutions Program. This program helps reduce transportation barriers to essential appointments, supporting economic stability and access to critical services. Eligible residents (housed or unhoused) may receive day passes, monthly passes, or MTS Access vouchers. Participants must be immunocompromised, extremely low-income, and able to provide documentation for medical or housing-related appointments requiring transportation.

- Email: lorena@travelersaidsandiego.org
- Phone: (619) 295-8393 x306

Promise Zone Updates

- **The Promise Zone’s 4th Annual Youth-Led Career Expo:** Tuesday, Mar. 3, 2026, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Balboa Park Club & Recital Hall. The Promise Zone’s 4th Annual Youth-Led Career Expo will feature resume reviews, mock interviews, professional headshots, a young professionals panel, and raffle prizes. Employers hiring youth and organizations offering job training or apprenticeship opportunities are encouraged to participate. Sponsorship opportunities, including swag bag items and raffle donations, are still available. Visit the Career Expo website for more information: <https://www.sandiego.gov/youthcareerexpo>
- **Our January Community Spotlight** features Maria Bojorquez-Gomez. Maria has been actively involved this year in the Economic Activity and Housing Affordability Working Groups and brings experience across government, nonprofit, and communications sectors. She views the Promise Zone as a commitment to uplifting the community and improving quality of life. Links to learn more about Maria are included in the [newsletter](#).
- **Community Perception Survey (CPS):** The 2026 Community Perception Survey has been finalized following working group feedback and translated into Spanish. Survey outreach will take place in March and April at locations throughout the Promise Zone, including Northgate Gonzalez Markets (Barrio Logan and Logan Heights, pending) and Food 4 Less (Encanto). Residents will receive a \$5 grocery gift card for participation.
- **Partner Impact Survey:** All Promise Zone partners with an MOU on file will receive a brief online Partner Impact Survey in the coming months. The survey will capture organizational impact on Promise Zone residents and the effects of participation in the 10-year designation. Results will be compiled into an Impact Report and shared at the All-Partner Celebration.
- **All-Partner Celebration: Save the Date:** Thursday, June 4, 2026, 1–4 p.m. at Workshops for Warriors’ new Barrio Logan location. This event will serve as the final All-Partner Meeting of the federal designation and the launch of the community-led San Diego Promise Zone Alliance.

Youth-Led Career Expo:

- **Daniella Salgado** announced that the Promise Zone’s 4th Annual Youth-Led Career Expo will take place on March 3, 2026, at the Balboa Park Club & Recital Hall, highlighting youth-informed programming based on 90+ survey responses, free career readiness services, a young professionals panel in development, remaining employer/vendor spots, and ongoing opportunities for sponsorship and in-kind support. Sponsor the event with raffle prizes or items for swag bags. We expect ~300 students and young adults to attend.
 - Career Expo website: <https://www.sandiego.gov/youthcareerexpo>

Promise Zone Working Group Transition Activities:



Sarah and Raquel shared updates from the December 2025 All-Partner Meeting and the Promise Zone Steering Committee planning session, including the San Diego Promise Zone Alliance's new tagline: From Promise to Power • Rooted in Culture • Driven by Purpose.

They also led a discussion on partner engagement in the next phase of the initiative. Partners were asked to consider ways to engage within the new San Diego Promise Zone Alliance structure, including:

- Hosting meetings
- Sponsoring refreshments
- Providing guest speakers
- Participating in sub-committees

A Development Sub-Committee has been formed to pursue grant funding and provide operational support. A Communications Sub-Committee will be formed next. If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to Sarah, Raquel, or promisezone@sandiego.gov.

Wrap Up and Adjourn:

- Co-chairs thanked those who attended the meeting and encouraged them to leave any feedback through the Digital Comment Box: <https://forms.gle/FAbFjw4ZUuAd3Uiy6>
- Next Jobs & Education Working Group meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026 from 10-11:30 a.m.