

# San Bernardino Investment Playbook

## Project Details: Economic Opportunity Center

An Economic Opportunity Center will provide needed physical infrastructure, programming, and staff support for street vendors and day laborers in the City of San Bernardino. Classroom and conference space will allow for tailored programming that supports the success of area street vendors and day laborers. The Center will include a commercial kitchen that can be rented by the hour or by the day on a sliding-scale basis. This affordable production space will help food-based street vendors interested in expanding their businesses. The Center will also serve as a safe, well-regulated hiring hub for day laborers seeking work opportunities in the area.

### RATIONALE

Day labor, street vending, and other forms of contingent work represent an important source of income for a significant proportion of San Bernardino residents. Though often overlooked, these workers fill critical, often front-line roles in the local economy. Given the informal nature of this work, many contingent workers fall victim to a wide range of ills, including unsafe working conditions, substandard wages, harassment, and wage theft. These workers have little recourse and lack access to the resources and information they need to improve their situations.

### OBJECTIVES

- Improve quality of life and reduce economic exploitation among local day laborers and street vendors
- Expand access to city services for local street vendors and day laborers
- Provide a central, well-regulated hub for area contractors seeking day laborers
- Increase business activity near the proposed site

### ADDITIONAL DETAILS

The Economic Opportunity Center will be constructed on one of two City-owned parcels located just south of West Highland Avenue, not far from Dignity Health Community Hospital. The facility will consist of four small offices, a conference room, workshop / training space, a commercial kitchen, staff breakroom, lobby, and restrooms.

### POTENTIAL FUNDING

*Federal*  
American Rescue Plan Act  
Community Development Block Grant (HUD)

*City*  
General Fund  
Measure S

*Philanthropic*  
Private donations

## NEXT STEPS

City staff are meeting with potential architects to understand possibilities for the proposed parcels before taking the project to the City Council for approval. Once the Council approves the project, City staff will work with the selected architectural firm to solidify plans, develop cost estimates, and devise a roadmap for construction and long-term operations.

Preliminary cost estimates suggest \$300K-500K for construction and capital investments and \$250K-400K per year for operations. The project will use land owned by the City of San Bernardino. Likely costs include facility design, construction, equipment and supplies, staffing, and programmatic costs.

## SIMILAR PROJECTS ELSEWHERE

[Pomona Economic Opportunity Center](#)