

ON SITE

BSCC Awards \$6M to PVJOBS

The California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) has approved a \$6 million grant to be awarded to PVJOBS as part of a statewide effort to break the cycle of violence, gang activity and recidivism in at-risk communities. PVJOBS will utilize the funds to expand its services to those with barriers to employment due to such at-risk factors as a history with the justice system and gang involvement.



The \$6 million grant was awarded to PVJOBS through BSCC's California Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (CalVIP). The CalVIP funding will be allocated to PVJOBS over a three-year period. During this term, PVJOBS will be responsible for utilizing the funds to expand its job training and placement program that helps at-risk individuals ultimately lead economically self-sufficient lives.

"On behalf of our board, staff and community of supporters, we at PVJOBS are overjoyed to receive this \$6 million grant that will enable us to significantly increase our services to local at-

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risk communities,” said PVJOBS Executive Director Mary Taylor. “For nearly 25 years, our work at PVJOBS has proven to make a lasting impact on the lives of those who’ve been locked out of the job market due to their past. This tremendous grant will help us further reduce violence and recidivism in South L.A. by allowing us to grow our evidence-based practices of giving at-risk individuals a way out of their past by creating a steady pathway to a career.”

The CalVIP Grant Program was established by the State Legislature in 2017 to provide funding for cities and community-based organizations with the goal of reducing violence in their cities and adjacent areas. According to the Break the Cycle of Violence Act (AB 1603) that was signed by Governor Newsom in 2019, the Act specifies that CalVIP grants shall be used to support, expand and replicate evidence-based violence reduction initiatives that seek to interrupt the cycle of violence.

Ernest Roberts Memorial Slated for June 24

Memorial honoring the life of Ernest Roberts, Founding Executive Director of PVJOBS, will take place in June. The special memorial will showcase the work and legacy of Roberts, a pioneering at-risk community advocate who served for two decades as the rock of PVJOBS since its founding in 1998.



Ernest Roberts

The memorial will be held from 11 am to 3 pm on Friday, June 24 at Playa Vista in The Great Room at The CenterPointe Club located at 6200 Playa Vista Drive. The event is open to PVJOBS participants, community partners and supporters. To attend, please RSVP at info@pvjobs.org.

SANDAG Approves PVJOBS as Jobs Coordinator

PVJOBS is one of eight approved jobs coordinators for the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). As one of eight designated jobs coordinators, PVJOBS is now on the approved list for SANDAG development projects. As a result, SANDAG contractors must select from this approved list to hire a jobs coordinator for their development projects in the San Diego region.



In May, SANDAG executed a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) that benefits the San Diego region by advancing racial equity, assisting vulnerable individuals and supporting underserved communities. The CBA’s fundamental goal is to create economic sustainability benefits to the region, derived from employment and training programs to help individuals that are systemically marginalized.

SANDAG’s Jobs Coordinator Program provides support to prime contractors in meeting workforce hiring requirements on construction projects covered by the CBA. Prime contractors will engage with a jobs coordinator prior to construction work and establish a plan to meet disadvantaged and targeted worker hiring goals.

Council District 9 Awards \$25k to PVJOBS

The Council District 9 Community Grant Program recently awarded \$25,000 to PVJOBS to assist the organization with additional need-based support for current participants.



THE NEW 9th
COUNCILMEMBER
CURREN D. PRICE, JR.

The grant program is part of an impactful initiative, led by Councilman Curren Price, designed to provide grant funding to local groups that serve Council District 9. The initiative has provided local nonprofits, block clubs and neighborhood councils with an opportunity to apply for grants – from \$5,000 to \$150,000 – to bring innovative projects and programs to the South Los Angeles area.

Change Reaction Supplies Essentials to PVJOBS Workers

The Change Reaction is a robust funding source of donors that provides grants to Los Angeles-based organizations that help their participants remove barriers and take advantage of opportunities to further their success. These grants support the specific needs of the participants by making an immediate, direct impact where it’s needed most. Due to their funding mission, The Change Reaction enabled PVJOBS to support its participants with boots, union dues, baby supplies, rent and other essential needs.



PVJOBS Program Director: Dr. Nicolas Miles

PVJOBS has brought on board Dr. Nicolas Miles as its new Program Director. In this role, Dr. Miles will primarily oversee the organization’s current federal and state grants and develop new funding opportunities. With more than 15 years of nonprofit experience, Dr. Miles says that he’s excited about working for PVJOBS since it will be a challenging role that will impact the local community. “I really like the idea of employment services and community-based work because that’s one of the biggest ways to change individuals’ lives,” he said.



Dr. Nicolas Miles

Before joining PVJOBS, Dr. Miles served as a consultant to Divinity Prophet and Associates, where he managed extended foster care programs and advocated on behalf of foster care youth in the LAUSD school system. He previously served as the Senior Director of Quality Insurance and Compliance for the New York City-based Postgraduate Center for Mental Health, where he managed contracts and ensured that the center met grant expectations.

PVJOBS Worker Profile: Stacy Lopez

PVJOBS participant Stacy Lopez is living life with a renewed purpose. As a carpenter working on her first construction assignment, Lopez feels confident about her new role as a working professional while raising her six-month old son. Lopez, who also is a mother to a teenage son and daughter, recently established a construction career to better care for herself and family. She says that PVJOBS helped her radically improve her outlook on life by arming her with the self-assurance of a steady job. “PVJOBS has changed my life,” she said. “The best thing that I gained from this program is my confidence.”



Stacy Lopez

Lopez’s newfound faith in life is a complete shift from the hopelessness that she felt for many years. Raised in Whittier, Lopez fell into chronic drug use and criminal behavior as a teen, resulting in several prison sentences throughout her youth and early adulthood. During her last pregnancy, she vowed to never return to drugs, a promise that she continues to keep to this day.

While a resident of a sober living facility, Lopez enrolled in PVJOBS after learning about the job program from a friend. She completed the Construction 101 course, which led to her becoming a member of the Carpenters Union. She also landed a job as a carpenter for a construction project to build an Amazon distribution facility.

“My family is so proud of me,” said Lopez, who has since moved her family in their own apartment unit. “I’m forever grateful for the opportunity of PVJOBS. I’m so excited about my life, my future.”

PVJOBS Program Director – continued

Dr. Miles earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia Union University and a Master of Arts degree in Nonprofit Management from Antioch University. He received his Ph.D. in Business Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

PVJOBS Elects New Board President: Dr. Lauren Brown

PVJOBS has elected longtime board member Dr. Lauren Brown as its new board president. The board is eager to leverage Dr. Brown's expertise as a social scientist to improve the organization's assessment processes, such as participant evaluations and peer reviews. The board also will look



Dr. Lauren Brown

to Dr. Brown, who is an adjunct lecturer at USC's Sol Price School of Public Policy, to lead the organization's expansion plans, including in the neighboring regions of Riverside and San Diego. On Site's editorial team recently spoke with Dr. Brown about her new leadership role and how she plans to use her experience to help PVJOBS expand to even greater heights.

On Site:

How do you plan to use your professional experience in your new board president role?

Dr. Brown:

Based upon my training as a social scientist, I look at issues from a social justice lens. My areas of expertise include ensuring equity in housing, education and the labor market. I believe that I can add value to PVJOBS by virtue of my experience with program development, evaluation and training for labor market participants. It is very important that participants develop the skills they need to survive in this economy and to secure employment.

On Site:

Do you hope to use your social science research skills to help PVJOBS with their evaluation processes?

Dr. Brown:

As a social science researcher, I will be able to guide the organization to determine innovative ways to create

a culture that allows us to make data-informed decisions about our programming and training. It is essential that we are clear about the best ways to serve our clientele with the resources that we have. This will help us improve the services that we provide.

On Site:

Where do you envision leading PVJOBS from where it currently stands?

Dr. Brown:

The organization is in a really good place right now. We've been able to expand our services and footprint through developing various partnerships. The board envisions our ability to identify and increase ways to collaborate and expand the services we provide to our target population.

On Site:

What inspired you to pursue the field of social justice?

Dr. Brown:

When I was young, my family was denied an opportunity to purchase a home in a predominantly white neighborhood. We were part of an audit study to prove that a real estate agent discriminated against us based on our race. I think that was the beginning of my desire to help people gain equal access to housing, education and employment. The experience inspired my passion for this work.

On Site:

Any final words you'd like to add?

Dr. Brown:

I'm thrilled that PVJOBS is able to provide training, resources and access to jobs that pay livable wages. It's life changing. I'm so happy to be a part of this resilient, thriving organization and grateful to be working with the board to continue this very important work.

