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May 13, 2015

Dear Chair, County Commissioners,

My name is Ranfis Giannettino Villatoro and I am the Workforce Development Coordinator with Voz Workers' Rights Education Project.

Voz is a worker-led organization that empower diverse day laborers and immigrants to improve their working conditions and protect their civil rights through leadership development, organizing, education, and economic opportunity.

We also operate the MLK Worker Center where we connect day laborers and immigrants to work, guaranteeing them a \$12 minimum wage, and four hours of minimum work.

Day laborers are a cross sector of immigrants (primarily Latino), homeless, and similar individuals facing barriers for employment who have historically sought work in the street corners of SE Portland.

This sector of the community is often in need resources, such as housing, health, and food access that the county often provides. Voz plays an important role in helping navigate individuals to these important resources.

Our accomplishments include:

- Reclaiming over \$550,000 in stolen wages
- Connecting individuals to 3,954 jobs
- Creating safe space for day laborers from street harassment

We offer:

- Job Related Skill trainings
- Computer classes
- English Classes
- Health and Safety Trainings
- Wage claim services
- -and- apprenticeship presentations

Last year the County awarded \$10,000 for day laborer specific services. We are happy to see that same line item in the Chair's proposed budget. Today I'm here to testify in support of increased funding to better support the day laborer community.

Strategic increased funding to better support service for day laborers can allow for an organization like Voz to better support how day laborers access resources, ensure they develop relevant trainings to protect themselves and find work, and ultimately improve their lives.

Respectfully,

Ranfis Giannettino Villatoro
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VOZ

Voz Workers' Rights Education Project

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The New Americans' Jobs Fair is geared to connect newly naturalized citizens, Legal residents, DACA recipients, refugees, and day laborers from the Latino, Asian-Pacific Islander, and African communities to building and construction jobs and union trade apprenticeship programs.

The overarching goal is to increase the diversity and the overall number of New Americans working in high-paying, high-skill careers in the construction, mechanical, technical, utility, and highway trades.

Event Details:

When: Saturday, June 27th

Time: 10:00am-5:00pm

Where: East Bank Esplanade (SE Water Ave and Main St. near OMSI)

To learn more and register visit: www.portlandvoz.org/newamericans

Sponsors:



Organizaciones y Negocios Participando: LIUNA 296, NECA-IBEW, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades DC 5, CAWS, Lara Media Services, Causa Oregon, Center for Intercultural Organizing, Iron Workers 29, Cement Masons 555, Bricklayers 1, Construction Apprenticeship & Workforce Solutions Inc (CAWS), United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 290, Heat and Frost Insulators 36, Jobs Corps, Oregon Tradeswomen Inc., Constructing Hope, Portland Youth Builders

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AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS PARENTS AND CHILDREN SERVICES

AT IRC O/AFRICA HOUSE

631 NE 102 Avenue

Portland, Oregon

97220

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

AI-PCDS is serving 73 Africans children in Multnomah Country, our program serves children from 0 to 5 years old. We most target new arrival families, and we offer Parenting Education and basic skills. Our goal is to prepare children for kindergarten readiness. We organize group activities and we visit clients twice a month. We connect clients to different resources that are in the community, and we provide some assistance with diapers, schools supplies and we connect client to food bank etc.

We have found that many African children are not served yet, and some parents, especially mothers aren't supported with parenting Education and skills. However, could the Country extend the founding to our program, then we may hire more Parents Educators and serve more clients, knowing that many of them came from refugees camps, and they need more help.

Thank you for your understanding. For more details, please contact at: matandaM@irco.org – Direct Phone: 971-271-6512.