

# City of New Orleans Job Training Initiatives

By Office of Workforce Development

NEW ORLEANS—The City of New Orleans recently announced ongoing initiatives spearheaded by the Office of Workforce Development (OWD) for skills and job training.

“The investments made by my administration continue to make New Orleans a more thriving, attractive, and equitable place to work, live, and raise a family,” said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. “I applaud the efforts of Workforce Development to train and prepare our residents for skilled, high-paying jobs, focusing especially on our most vulnerable populations. As our economy continues to expand and diversify, it is important that we continue to set our people up for success by meeting them where they are, exposing them to the several high-demand employment opportunities within city government and ensuring they can support themselves and their families for generations to come.”

“The City of New Orleans is committed to using workforce development as a strategy to many

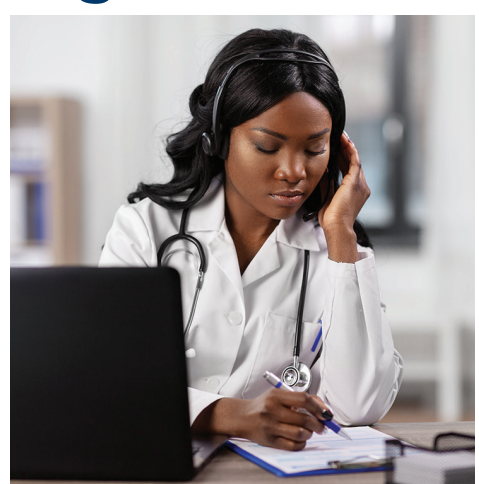
of the challenges we face around housing, public safety, and public health,” said OWD Director Sunae Villavaso. “The Office of Workforce Development has been and will continue to be intentional about finding and utilizing as many resources as possible to provide quality training and careers for youth, young adults, adults, and senior residents of Orleans Parish.”

### Earn and Learn Program

OWD is currently using \$500,000 in Wisner Funds to fund their inaugural Earn and Learn program, which provides stipends to participants who enroll in training programs in priority industries. Participants receive a weekly stipend while training for up to twelve weeks. The goal of this form of apprenticeship is to provide stipends while participants upskill and/or retrain to more resilient and sustainable careers. The program is anticipated to start in the next few weeks.

### Transitional Youth

JOBI, the programmatic side of OWD, has been working with several partners, such as Covenant



House, Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), local schools and businesses, and more, to assist transitional youth in skills and job training. This includes youth transitioning out of foster care, group

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Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: Jo Eckert, 319-362-6405, [jo.eckert@sba.gov](mailto:jo.eckert@sba.gov)  
Fee: Free; registration required  
Learn about SBA's new Veteran Small Business Certification program. Certification has been transferred from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to SBA as of January 1, 2023. Certification with SBA allows service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs) to compete for sole-source and set-aside federal contracts across the federal government. Certified veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) have additional opportunities to veterans administration and set-aside contracts at the Veterans Administration (VA) under the VA's Vets First program. Register for this free webinar at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/veteran-small-business-certification-vetcert-program-tickets-580691793787>

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Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: So Iliinois District Office, 312-353-4528, [illinois.do@sba.gov](mailto:illinois.do@sba.gov)  
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**Selling to the Federal Government Webinar**  
Thursday, April 27, 2023, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online  
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Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, [george.tapia@sba.gov](mailto:george.tapia@sba.gov)  
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DATE