



JCOD Celebrates Graduation of Incubation Academy's Fifth Cohort



The Los Angeles County Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) recently celebrated the graduation of 26 new organizations from the Incubation Academy, bringing the total number of graduates to 115 since the program's inception in 2021. Organizations from this year's class provide essential services to the community including housing support, healthcare services, outpatient therapy, substance abuse treatment and mentorship.

The Incubation Academy provides 15 weeks of intensive training sessions for non-profit organizations that face challenges in securing government contracts and funding. Organizations that complete the program receive a year of ongoing support, including technical assistance and peer advising.

To date, graduates from the Incubation Academy have received over \$32 million in combined capacity-building and Care First Community Investment grants, empowering

them to better serve their communities. The next cohort is set to begin in July 2024, with applications accepted on a rolling basis. To watch a video recap of the event click [here](#). For more information, visit [JCOD Incubation Academy](#).

JCOD Recognized with Four NACo Achievement Awards



JCOD was recently recognized with four 2024 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for JCOD's Justice Connect Support Center, Incubation Academy, Developing Opportunities and Offering Reentry Solutions and Los Angeles County Training Center. The awards honor innovative, effective County government programs that strengthen services for residents. To read the press release click [here](#).

JCOD Participates in Panel Discussion on Mental Wellness in the Black Community



JCOD Director Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.) participated in a panel discussion hosted by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office's African American Advisory Board. The "Beyond Survival: Fostering Mental Wellness in the Black Community" panel discussion took place on June 1, at McCarty Memorial Christian Church and focused on mental health and wellness within the Black community.

Director Armstead joined a distinguished panel that included LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, Andrea Welsing, Director of the Office of Violence Prevention, Derek Steele, Executive Director of the Social Justice Learning Institute and was moderated by Dr.

Ramona Merchan. The panelists addressed psychological safety, self and community healing amidst ongoing trauma and available resources to support wellness.

Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.) One-on-One Interview with LA County Channel LA36

Watch JCOD Director's one-on-one interview with LA County Channel LA36 where she discusses the mission of JCOD, our programs and the vision for the future:

https://youtu.be/F_Vp7WbJ6Vs



Staff Spotlight

Julie Martinez – Justice Program Director

Julie Martinez has been an employee with the County of Los Angeles since 2008. She served on the Human Resources team at the LA County Department of Child Support Services, Internal Services Department and LA County Superior Court in addition to spending almost 10 years at the LA County Department of Health Services before joining JCOD last year.

Julie leads program administration for JCOD's Care First Community Investment (CFCI) County and Third Party Administrator programs. She also manages the CFCI Advisory Committee Meeting and provides support to community-based organizations in JCOD's Incubation Academy.

Fun Fact: As a 1-month-old, Julie was baptized by Father Greg Boyle, Founder of Homeboy Industries.



“The most fulfilling part of my job is experiencing the success stories from the organizations building capacity and providing direct services that have an impact on the community. It's really special to see all the work that goes on behind the scenes come to life through those stories.”

Julie graduated with her bachelor's degree in sociology from California State University, Dominguez Hills and a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Los Angeles. She grew up in Paramount and loves spending time with her three daughters.



Organization Spotlight

Paving the Way Foundation



Photo: Ribbon Cutting for PTW's New Wellness Center

[Paving The Way Foundation](#) (PTW), a year-one CFCI Care Grant recipient, is a non-profit organization based in the Antelope Valley dedicated to assisting justice-involved individuals through comprehensive reentry services.

PTW shares a strong partnership with JCOD through the Reentry Intensive Case Management Services program where they provide a range of essential services to individuals navigating the challenges of reentry.

Services include employment support, life skills training, case management support, workshops, and additional supports to equip justice-involved individuals with the tools they need to rebuild their lives and successfully return to their community.

“The vision of Paving the Way Foundation is a hand-out for a hand-up,” said PTW Executive Director and Founder Janie Hodge. “Our mission is to enable people of all walks of life to be as healthy and active as possible by assisting them to maintain the highest quality of purpose, improving the quality of their lives.”

Recently, JCOD joined the ribbon cutting ceremony of PTW’s new wellness center, "Our Healing Space: A Wellness Experience," located at 1729 W. Avenue J in Lancaster. The facility offers a variety of supportive services, including therapy, community classes, gardening, and additional programming aimed at fostering healing and empowerment and is set to have a grand opening this summer.

“JCOD is one of our most valued relationships, through the resources and relationships we have built together, the AV has benefited in ways that could not have been available without them,” said Hodge. “We totally appreciate everyone that helps to make these relationships grow and our community flourish.”

For more information about PTW, visit <https://pavingthewayfd.com/>

Upcoming Meetings: Save the Date

[CFCI Advisory Committee Meeting, Thursday, June 20, 2024, 4pm - 6pm](#)



To see the Agenda, click [here](#).

The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, June 20, 2024, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at:

**Earvin "Magic" Johnson Event Center
12645 Wadsworth Ave.**

Los Angeles, CA 90059

To participate via computer or smart phone:

[Click Here For Access](#)

To participate via telephone only:

Dial-In: [+1 669 900 9128](#)

Meeting ID: 861 0182 2883#

Passcode: 437765

JCOD Public Convening - June 26, 2024, 9:00am -10:00am

Due to Juneteenth, we will be hosting the JCOD Public Convening on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, instead of our regularly scheduled third Wednesday of the month. Here's the info to join the meeting virtually:

[Join the meeting by clicking here](#)

Meeting ID: 252 798 644 16

Passcode: t3JKNi

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