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Goodwill Serving the People of Southern Los Angeles County Selected as Citi Foundation Youth Workforce Fund Grantee to Prepare Southern Los Angeles County Youth for Local Employment Needs

\$3.75 million fund to increase access to apprenticeships, internships and vocational training for youth across the United States

Long Beach, CA - October 25, 2018 – [The Citi Foundation](#) recently announced that Goodwill Serving the People of Southern Los Angeles County (Goodwill SOLAC) has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from their 2018 Youth Workforce Fund, a national initiative that is supporting community organizations in key cities across the United States to help them expand their programming and connect low-income youth to a range of employment opportunities.

The Youth Workforce Fund is part of the Citi Foundation's three year \$100MM global [Pathways to Progress](#) initiative, which focuses on career readiness initiatives that provide youth job seekers the full range of services needed for long-term employment and economic success.

Through the Youth Workforce Fund, Goodwill SOLAC has received a grant of \$250,000 to provide youth in southern LA County with hands on occupational skills training, employment placement, retention and career advancement support in the healthcare, loss prevention and security professions. Goodwill SOLAC will also have access to technical assistance and opportunities to share best practices with other community organizations that are a part of this initiative.

Goodwill SOLAC's President & CEO, Janet McCarthy stated, "We are thrilled to enter into this partnership with Citi Foundation. Citi Foundation's magnificent support will dramatically enable at least 150 low income, underrepresented youth ages 18 -25, to acquire soft employability skills, as well as learning occupational skills that will qualify them to achieve State of California credentials as Certified Nurse Assistants, and to receive Campus Security Training and hold a California State Guard Card."

Ms. McCarthy also stated, "These initial steps encourages the progression to higher education for advanced skills training and achievement within the career fields of Allied Health, Security and Loss Prevention. Additionally, each of our graduates will have access to follow-along supportive services for up to five years, helping them move up their chosen career ladder and the achievement of economic self-sufficiency."

Access to apprenticeships, internships and vocational training is essential to empowering youth and preparing them to compete in today's economy. According to the Citi Foundation's [Global Youth Survey: Economic Prospects & Expectations](#), 78% of young people surveyed believe that internships and apprenticeships are critical for career success, however, 60% say there aren't enough of these opportunities in their cities.

“Youth Workforce Fund grantees are helping to equip local youth with the skills and training necessary to fill employment needs in their communities,” said [Brandee McHale](#), **president of the Citi Foundation**. “By addressing the skills mismatch these organizations are opening new doors for young workers across America and introducing them to long-term, meaningful career opportunities in their local communities.”

Goodwill SOLAC is a nonprofit organization that transforms donated goods into job training, education and placement services for individuals with barriers to employment. Goodwill SOLAC serves 22 cities and communities throughout Southern Los Angeles County. Goodwill SOLAC’s main facility—located at 800 W. Pacific Coast Highway in Long Beach—houses its administrative offices, training programs, processing operations, transportation fleet, LiNKS Sign Language & Interpreting Services, a retail store and [shopgoodwill.com](#), its on-line retail store. To learn more about Goodwill career services or to find your nearest Goodwill store or donation center, visit www.ThinkGood.org.

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