



April 30, 2020

Long Beach Center for  
Economic Inclusion

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2020**

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**Hon. Rex Richardson**, Chair; **Hon. Stacy Mungo**, Vice Chair; **Hon. Roberto Uranga**; Economic Development & Finance Committee; City Council, City of Long Beach

*RE: Letter of Support for Special Committee Hearing on Reopening of Long Beach Economy*

On behalf of the Long Beach Center for Economic Inclusion, we are writing to lend our support for the City of Long Beach's effort to reopen the Long Beach Economy. We are committed to pursuing our mission to create economic opportunities for all, including those underrepresented low-income families and small businesses in North, Central and West Long Beach that we serve.

Although we only officially launched last month, we have been able to quickly respond to the crisis by working with our funding partners to direct \$250,000 of emergency funds to directly support those in need in the following areas:

- **FOOD SECURITY** – *Senior Food Delivery* - delivery of fresh, local produce to 300 home-bound seniors each week; *Food Pantries* - Supporting 8 food pantries providing food or 100-200 families each week across Long Beach
- **DIGITAL INCLUSION** – 100 laptops for students of YMCA Early Childhood and Youth Institute program; 100 laptops for low-income students at Long Beach City College
- **SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT** - established a Business Navigation team in partnership with Economic Development to outreach and support small businesses in North Long Beach and also supporting UCC's business navigator in Central Long Beach.
- **HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES** – working to provide a HUD-certified counselor to provide 1-on-1 counseling to Long Beach residents

We want to thank our partners at Wells Fargo and Bridge Development Partners for supporting our efforts to redirect our resources to this emergency response. We also want to thank the City of Long Beach Economic Development department for guiding us to the gaps in service we can help support and for directly supporting our team's efforts in the community.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with Economic Development and other partners such as the Long Beach Economic Partnership in working together to insure economic opportunities for all of Long Beach as the City prepares to reopen the economy.

Thank you all for your leadership and guidance in this difficult time. Please let us know how we can help, we can be reached at 562 336-1833 or [admin@lbcei.org](mailto:admin@lbcei.org)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Cabeza".

Bob Cabeza  
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Williams".

Jeff Williams  
Interim Director