

**Quality and Productivity Commission**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program**  
**“Leading with Excellence”**

**2021 APPLICATION**

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12-point font):

**NAME OF PROJECT: YOUTH@WORK PPE ASSEMBLY**

**DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION/ADOPTION: AUGUST 2020**

(Must have been fully implemented for a minimum of at least one year - on or before July 1, 2020)

**CHECK HERE IF THIS PROJECT IS BEING SUBMITTED FOR THE COVID-19 IMPACT AWARD ONLY.** (Projects must be implemented on or before December 31, 2020. **Note:** Projects implemented less than one year ago will not be eligible for any other PQA awards. In addition, once a project is submitted, you cannot submit the same project for awards consideration in subsequent years).

**PROJECT STATUS:** \_\_\_\_\_ Ongoing       One-time only

**HAS YOUR DEPARTMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED THIS PROJECT?** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes       No

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Describe the project in 15 lines or less using Arial 12 point font. State clearly and concisely what difference the project has made.

1 COVID-19 responses were wide and swift in Los Angeles County. Health frontline  
 2 employees were in most need of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) resources on  
 3 the onset of the pandemic. Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services  
 4 (WDACS) was able to respond with youth workforce participants to assist in assembling  
 5 face shields to deliver to health facilities throughout the County. The program provided  
 6 the youth workers with information on manufacturing careers and opportunities. The  
 7 Youth@Work program provides the subsidized employment hours necessary to  
 8 assemble the face shields. WDACS provides a volunteered location to house the PPE  
 9 operations. Youth from the surrounding area are placed at workstations to assemble the  
 10 equipment. At this site, presentations are made to youth in-person or virtually that  
 11 inform the youth about careers in manufacturing. Youth are trained to assemble face  
 12 shields and in doing so, they are introduced to concepts in manufacturing and other  
 13 related fields. WDACS partners were able to secure over \$150,000 in outside funding to  
 14 produce the face shields with a total of 215 youth participating to assemble over  
 15 100,000 face shields. Participating youth were linked to additional workforce services.

**BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY**

(1) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST AVOIDANCE	(2) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST SAVINGS	(3) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE	(1) + (2) + (3) = TOTAL ANNUAL ACTUAL/ESTIMATED BENEFIT	SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
\$	\$	\$	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ANNUAL = 12 MONTHS ONLY

<b>SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS</b> Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services 510 S. Vermont Ave, 11 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles 90020	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b> 213-351-5246
<b>PROGRAM MANAGER'S NAME</b> Irene Pelayo      EMAIL ipelayo@wdacs.lacounty.gov	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b> 213-905-9520
<b>PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE</b> <small>(PLEASE CALL (213) 893-0322 YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME)</small> Stephanie Maxberry 6-24-2021 <i>Stephanie Maxberry</i>	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b> 213-738-2015  <b>EMAIL</b> smaxberry@wdacs.lacounty.gov
<b>DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE</b> Signature on File	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b>

**\*\*ELECTRONIC, WET, OR SCANNED SIGNATURES ARE ACCEPTABLE\*\***

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**1<sup>st</sup> FACT SHEET – LIMITED UP TO 3 PAGES ONLY:** Describe the **challenge(s), solution(s), and benefit(s)** of the project **to the County**. What quality and/or productivity-related outcome(s) has the project achieved? Provide measures of success **and specify assessment time frame**. Use Arial 12 point font.

Los Angeles County in partnership with the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) recognized a need for PPE for health frontline workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, County’s Youth@Work program was unable to utilize most of the traditional worksites that provide the much-needed work experience and subsidized employment income due to the Safer-at-Home orders issued in response to the pandemic. As a result of both these needs, a unique situation and innovative partnership presented itself, leverage the Youth@Work program to assist LACI in assembling face shields for health centers throughout the County. By partnering with LACI, County could also present more workforce opportunities to targeted youth by introducing potential Fellowships. Youth could also learn about manufacturing technology careers and pathways to those careers through LACI’s guidance.

To help alleviate the shortage of PPE Los Angeles area hospitals are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LACI began to prototype and produce faced shields for essential healthcare workers. Youth@Work involvement was an integral aspect of this initiative to have the resources available to meet deliverable goals. Youth are trained to assemble face shields and in doing so, they are introduced to concepts in manufacturing and other related fields. WDACS and LACI provide workshops once a week to inform youth on internship and other related programs. Participating youth are provided additional information to aid in considering a career in the clean tech industry and to build knowledge regarding technical training needed, develop interpersonal skills, and aim for an industry recognized certification. Youth learn about career pathways in the fields of advanced manufacturing, engineering, and technology to peak their interests in these fields.

The project started with a goal of 10,000 face shields to be assembled during an eight-week period starting August 2020. The pilot cohort completed the task in accordance with projected schedule. However, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to surge, WDACS and LACI explored and secured additional funding for materials to assemble 90,000 additional face shields for a total of 100,000+ and delivered by mid-year 2021. Additionally, Youth interest and response to the pilot has led WDACS to explore similar projects. Over 130 youth have participated thus far and have been recognized for their participation and appreciated for their hard work.

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With the Safer-at-Home orders issued in March of 2020, Los Angeles County endured severe economic distress. This negatively impacted the Youth@Work program, which has been an important source of income for youth. The innovative partnership created work-based learning opportunities for our youth and has also given an alternative for youth to virtual learning. More importantly, the program has provided much needed help to those Healthcare facilities who were and still in need of PPE.

Youth@Work targets and prioritizes youth priority populations as discussed earlier. Assessments are completed before a youth participant is enrolled in the program inclusive of demographics. Youth are enrolled under one main demographic category; however, data tracking allows for reporting of various other demographics. Utilizing this data, County can ensure diversity, equity and inclusion guidelines are being met.

The program has provided subsidized employment to 215 youth participants. These participants may have not received an opportunity to participate in the program due to the lack of worksites able to take youth in the County due to the state and local orders pertaining to the pandemic. The program has proven to be a great success. Word continues to spread on the impact this work is having. Due to the success of the original goal, new funding has been secured on two separate occasions due to the streamlining of producing the face shields and the response time to delivery. The objective of the program continues to be reached as outgoing participants are surveyed for their experience. Most participants state that they are happy about providing services during this time of need and feel good about being a part of the process. Participants continue to apply to the LACI Fellowships and have demonstrated an interest in advanced manufacturing. Over 25% of youth participants are continuing with additional workforce services provided by WDACS and its partners. WDACS has been successful in delivering over 100,000 face shields to health care organizations. Additionally, delivery to community-based organizations, who are also in need of PPE, was also able to be coordinated through this effort.

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**Linkage to the County Strategic Plan – 1 page only.** Which County Strategic Plan goal(s) does this project address? Explain how. Use Arial 12-point font.

**Strategy II - II.1.1 Support 21st Century Innovative and Socially Responsible Industries in Los Angeles County:**

The project demonstrated the importance of partnering and leveraging resources across different organizations. This project serves as a model for future collaborations that may enhance services to the community while training youth participants on potential career paths. The most worthiness reason for the award is the effect this project had on the youth participants. Some participants had never thought about a career in public service until they participated in this program. Youth have demonstrated that being part of something bigger than one person is valuable to a career choice. There is no better feeling than for youth to know that by participating in the program they may have saved at least one life.

**Strategy II - II.1.3 Coordinate Workforce Development:**

This program had a sizable impact on our community, which was mainly centered on providing adequate PPE to aid during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as provide additional worksite for the Youth@Work program. The program provided a much-needed response to County issued health orders to adhere during the pandemic. It also provided a small level of financial security to the participants in the program, and exposed them to potentially new career paths, while providing such highly needed services to their community. This program has connected youth to the County's workforce services providers allowing them to explore additional assistance that may be available to them and their families during these tough times.

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**COST AVOIDANCE, COST SAVINGS, AND REVENUE GENERATED (ESTIMATED BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY):** If you are claiming cost benefits, include a calculation on this page. Please indicate whether these benefits apply in total or on a per unit basis, e.g., per capita, per transaction, per case, etc. You must include an explanation of the County cost savings, cost avoidance or new revenue that matches the numbers in the box. Remember to keep your supporting documentation. Use Arial 12-point font

**Cost Avoidance:** Costs that are eliminated or not incurred as a result of program outcomes. Please indicate whether these are costs to the County or to other entities.

**Cost Savings:** A reduction or lessening of expenditures as a result of program outcomes. Please indicate whether these were expenditures by the County or by other entities.

**Revenue:** Increases in existing revenue streams or new revenue sources to the County as a result of program outcomes.

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