



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**November 18, 2014**

### City Unveils Collaborative Model for Training and Employment Services in West Oakland

*Oakland, CA* — The City of Oakland, in partnership with the Oakland Private Industry Council and the Oakland Public Library, will host an open house on Thursday, November 20. In addition to the services and enrichment programs offered at the library, 1801 Adeline Street now boasts comprehensive training and employment services on the second floor provided by the West Oakland Neighborhood Career Center and the West Oakland Job Resource Center. Reflecting the collaborative nature of the site, the open house celebrates the transformative services offered by all three partners. The free, public event runs from 1 to 3 p.m. with a short program at 1:30 p.m.

The Open House will proudly showcase and highlight the wide array of onsite services available including literacy and early childhood programs at the library, direct referral placement services and assistance with job searches and resumes.

The Oakland Global Trade & Logistics Center (OGTLC) is transforming the former Oakland Army Base and generating a number of new construction jobs. To help West Oakland residents prepare for those jobs, the West Oakland Job Resource Center (WOJRC) directly assists contractors working on OGTLC in hiring qualified local workers. WOJRC is a referral and placement center focused on helping local residents learn about and prepare for careers in the building trades. Working with partner construction trade unions, the WOJRC screens individuals for the apprenticeship programs that allow qualified candidates to earn while they learn. For more information on WOJRC, please visit [www.oaklandnet.com/WOJRC](http://www.oaklandnet.com/WOJRC) or call (510) 419-0509.

Sadakao Whittington, a resident of Oakland who was formerly incarcerated for fifteen years, says the WOJRC changed his life after attending his first orientation in August 2014. “Going through the program and being in the union has allowed me to be gainfully employed and save money,” said Sadakao. “It’s also helped me feel better about myself and provide for my family and it’s allowed me a foundation to build upon.” Mr. Whittington was placed as a direct hire with Alarcon Bohm as an apprentice laborer. He has actively completed welding certifications for 3G and is well on his way to building his career in construction.

Also located upstairs is the West Oakland Neighborhood Career Center, a project of the Private Industry Council, which provides accessible, high-quality training and employment services for local residents and employers. Since its launch in July, the Center has received over 1,000 visits from jobseekers, reflecting the need for services in an area that has experienced a disproportionate share of unemployment, poverty

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and, more recently, gentrification. The Career Center assists with resume development, job-search, career counseling and hosts on-site recruitments for companies like IKEA and Target. For more information on the Career Center, please visit [www.oaklandpic.org](http://www.oaklandpic.org) or call (510) 419-0392.

These community-based services address poverty and high unemployment rates by providing access to high-growth careers that pay a living wage. During the open house, residents and community partners will learn about all of the onsite services offered in this one location as well as meet staff members and enjoy light refreshments and live music.

R.S.V.P. for the event at [westoaklandjobresourcecenter@gmail.com](mailto:westoaklandjobresourcecenter@gmail.com).

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