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**West Oakland Job Resource Center Receives Grant
from San Francisco Foundation**

Grant funds program to help low-income workers build their financial futures

Oakland, CA — Thanks to a grant from the San Francisco Foundation (TSFF), low-income workers at the Oakland Global Trade & Logistics Center (the former Oakland Army Base) will be getting the financial tools they need to build savings and assets.

The West Oakland Job Resource Center (WOJRC) is a City of Oakland project focused on helping local residents learn about and prepare for careers in the building trades. The center directly assists contractors working on the Oakland Global Trade & Logistics Center in hiring qualified local workers. Working with partner construction trade unions, the WOJRC screens individuals for the apprenticeship programs that allow qualified candidates to earn while they learn.

The \$20,000 grant will allow the WOJRC to partner with SparkPoint Oakland to deliver financial education and counseling services to 30 clients. Clients will receive one-on-one coaching in addition to special workshops on topics such as improving your credit scores, reducing debt and avoiding predatory financial products. The ultimate goal is to increase savings and assets for individuals in Oakland.

“This grant adds a critical component to our core program,” said WOJRC Program Director Julina Bonilla. “Developing financial planning skills such as budgeting and debt reduction are especially important in the construction industry as work often fluctuates.”

“I am finally making good wages with full benefits, but now I need to plan for my future,” said Sadakao Whittington, a new apprentice with the Laborers Union Local 304. “This program will help me better manage my budget and begin to save for a rainy day.”

The West Oakland Job Resource Center thanks TSFF for its investment in bringing this bold new idea to life.

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