



JCOD Celebrates Launch of Innovative Fire Camp Program in Los Angeles County



Los Angeles County Training Center Fire Camp Launch Ceremony

The Justice, Care, and Opportunities Department (JCOD) celebrated its first cohort of participants at the newly renovated [Los Angeles County Training Center Fire Camp on March 21st](#). The event highlighted the inaugural participants at the revamped fire camp and innovative residential job training facility. Formerly known as Camp David Gonzales, the site served as a juvenile detention center for several decades prior to its redesign.

The program offers comprehensive fire services training, including room and board, life skills training, and a monthly stipend. The first cohort officially began their training on February 4th and will spend up to 12 months at the camp.

Families of the inaugural group joined program partners and representatives from various County departments including Third District Supervisor Lindsey Horvath at the celebration, recognizing the collaborative effort that made this program possible.

Upon graduation, participants will possess the skills and certifications necessary for careers in fire service and will continue to receive support beyond the program's completion. Thank you to The Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program (FFRP), Anti Recidivism Coalition (ARC), Amity Foundation, and the JCOD team for making this event a hit!

JCOD and LISC LA Host 2nd Annual Pitch Competition for Incubation Academy Graduates



Second Annual Pitch Competition for Incubation Academy Graduates

JCOD and Local Initiatives Support Corporation Los Angeles (LISC LA) recently hosted the 2nd annual pitch competition for graduates of JCOD's Incubation Academy.

The event occurred on March 28th at the Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park Event Center and featured 10 organizations from [Incubation Academy](#) Cohorts 3 and 4. Representatives from each organization took the stage to pitch their vision and the impactful work they perform in underrepresented communities across Los Angeles County.

The first-place prize was awarded to Open Paths Counseling, who received \$6,000 for their pitch. They highlighted their focus on prioritizing the mental and emotional health of underserved residents in Los Angeles County, aiming to eliminate financial, geographical, and cultural barriers to psychotherapy.

The second-place prize went to Ten Toes In, who earned \$4,000 for their pitch. They described their role as a mentorship and domestic violence prevention program, aiding

former justice-involved men in successfully reintegrating into their communities and fostering healthy relationships with their partners.

Defy Ventures clinched the third-place prize, winning \$3,000 for their pitch. Their initiative aims to provide people with criminal histories a second chance, striving to halve the recidivism rate by leveraging entrepreneurship to boost economic opportunity and transform lives.

All other contestants received \$500 for their participation. The JCOD Incubation Academy remains a cornerstone of LA County's efforts to support grassroots nonprofit organizations, particularly those serving underserved communities. For more information visit our website jcod.lacounty.gov.



Staff Spotlight

Myles Meshack, Division Manager – Site-Based Programming



Myles Meshack is one of the original members of JCOD. While working for the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office in 2020, he volunteered to join LA County's Alternatives to Incarceration Office (ATI), which would eventually be part of JCOD.

"I wanted to help my community. I've been a coach, I've been a mentor, I've been a teacher, I've practiced criminal law. I'm tired of seeing my people locked up. From my own family to kids I've taught and coached, the things I've seen, and the impact incarceration has had on the community, I thought this was one way I could make a difference," Myles said.

Myles finds that seeing how peoples' lives have been affected as the result of JCOD's programs, is the most fulfilling part of his JCOD work.

"I see JCOD becoming a community institution – one of the first things people think of when they need assistance. When someone makes the decision to change their life, I want them to call JCOD," he added.

Myles is instrumental in the development and operation of JCOD's site-based programs, including the [Developing Opportunities and Offering Reentry Solutions \(DOORS\)](#) center in South Los Angeles and the brand-new [Los Angeles County Training Center Fire Camp](#) in Calabasas.

He was born and raised in the Windsor Hills/Crenshaw area of Los Angeles. He attended Loyola High school and, after graduating from Howard University, earned his Juris Doctor from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law.



Organization Spotlight

The Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program



[The Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program](#) (FFRP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing career support to justice-involved individuals working in fire service in California. FFRP offers training, resources and job coaching for careers in the wildland and forestry sector and most importantly, setting individuals up for long-term success.

Most recently, FFRP became a training partner at JCOD's Los Angeles County Training Center Fire Camp in Calabasas. The fire camp recently launched its first cohort of participants providing them with training and certifications as a pathway toward a career in fire service.

“Through this program, we want to not only provide stable housing and reentry support to our participants as they navigate the challenges of coming home, but better prepare our neighboring communities for the adverse effects of wildfires through our fire mitigation projects that will be a part of our training program,” said FFRP Chief Program Officer and Co-Founder Royal Ramey.

FFRP was founded in 2015 by co-founders Royal Ramey and Brandon Smith. Since becoming a formal nonprofit in 2018, FFRP has helped more than 200 justice-involved individuals secure jobs in fire service.

“I have a lived experience being incarcerated at Fire Camp and making the transition to do this work professionally when I got home. It took me 11 months to find a job in the fire space after I was released and I faced a lot of adversity along the way. My Co-Founder, Brandon Smith, and I created FFRP to ease this pathway for others coming out of prison seeking professional & gainful career opportunities,” Ramey said.



Upcoming Meetings & Events

JCOD's Public Convening, Wednesday, 4/17/2024, 9am

The next Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) public convening meeting will be Wednesday, April 17th, from 9 am – 10:30 am.

You can join the public convening in Microsoft Teams or via phone:

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 252 798 644 16

Passcode: t3JKNi

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CFCI Advisory Committee Regular Meeting, Thursday, 4/18/2024, 4pm

Agenda and supporting documentation will be provided at a later date.

Meeting Location:

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

Board of Supervisors Hearing Room

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 381-B

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

Join on your computer or mobile app or room device:

[Click Here For Access](#)

To participate via telephone only:

Dial-In: +1 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 861 0182 2883#

Passcode: 437765

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