



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **JCOD Launches First All-Female Cohort of Firefighter Training Program During Second Chance Month**

**CALABASAS** – The Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) proudly celebrated the launch of the first all-female cohort of its Firefighter Training Program at the Los Angeles County Training Center (LACTC) in Calabasas yesterday.

The event, *Building Futures*, honored the cadets of Cohort 2, who are participating in an innovative residential training program designed to prepare individuals for careers in fire service. The program is hosted at the renovated LACTC campus, formerly Camp Gonzales, and marks significant expansion of opportunities for women, impacted by the justice or foster care systems.

The Firefighter Training Program is made possible through key partnerships including support from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Amity Foundation and Operation Flame.

“Los Angeles County is investing in the next generation of fearless women who are stepping up to serve and protect our communities through fire service. These 17

trailblazing Angelenos are not only breaking barriers—they're setting a new standard for what leadership, grit, and public service look like. I'm proud to champion their journey and to support the continued growth of the LA County Fire Training Center and our Justice, Care and Opportunities Department as we build a future rooted in equity, empowerment, and opportunity," said LA County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath.

"This launch reflects the future we are building, one where women can lead, break barriers and shape new paths forward," said Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.). "I am inspired by our cadets and proud to see how far their commitments will carry them. I am deeply grateful for the support of our County Board of Supervisors, departments, agencies, justice partners and community-based organizations. Without their collaboration none of this would have been possible."

Graduates receive certificates in wildland and structural firefighting, hazmat and EMT, as well as career readiness preparation and access to certifications needed for successful employment in fire service. The program also provides on-site room and board, life skills training, monthly stipends and comprehensive supportive services.

Participation is entirely voluntary and prioritizes applicants impacted by the justice system, foster care system and military service.

For more information about the Firefighter Training Program and JCOD's other programs, visit [jcod.lacounty.gov](https://jcod.lacounty.gov).

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