

## City of Innovation S.O.S.

### Organizational Background

**Name of Organization:** Community Centers, Incorporated (CCI) is a 40 year old 501c3 in South Los Angeles in the Vermont Corridor. This community is characterized by increased poverty, crime, poor academic achievement with an anemic opportunity for economic development, often referred to as “Death Alley” by law enforcement officials, a term associated with the high number of homicides compared to other areas of Los Angeles County. People here are exposed to gang violence, substance abuse, and mental health challenges in addition to the absence of a living wage. Simply put, people are in survivor mode. For more than a decade, CCI has provided resources that address recidivism including:

**Core Competencies and Programs:** Workforce Development, Employment Assistance, Job Training/Placement, Technology Education and Access, Computer Literacy, Lab and Business Center Access, Resume Building, Entrepreneur Incubator, Life Skills, Case Management, Counseling/Mentoring, and Wrap Around Services providing Anger Management, Mental Health Services, Hardship Referrals, Health and Wellness Education, Individual/ Family Therapy, Substance Abuse Counseling, GED Classes.

**Partnerships for reducing recidivism include:** California Emerging Technology Fund for Technology Education, California Public Utilities Commission providing technology through a three-dimensional model including internet adoption, computer classes, job training and placement in tech related fields. Previous and current work includes but is not limited to: WorkSource Center for 15 years, obtaining the highest 4 Star rating, Work related transportation, Prevention and Intervention of gangs and ex-offenders, Housing Referrals, System Navigation Services (Dept. of Probation), Job Training, Computer Classes, Job Search, Computer/Internet Access/Open Lab, Los Angeles Unified School Dist. providing Pre Ged and GED classes.

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### **Background of Management Team**

- Saundra Davis, CEO/Executive Director of Community Centers, Incorporated, has a Master’s Degree in Behavioral Science and Negotiation Conflict Mgt., Masters in Governance from the CA School Board Assoc., Bachelor’s in Interdisciplinary and Studies, Certificates from UCLA and L. A. County Bar Assoc. for Dispute Resolution and Negotiations and Contract Administration and an honorary PhD. In 2000 she broke the glass ceiling as 1st African American elected to office in Culver City as Schoolboard Member and President. She served as Chair of the California 47th A. D. Education Commission, Culver City Strategic Planning, Culver City USD Strategic Planning, and is a founding member of “Education is a Civil Right.” She has created intergenerational sustainable programs for vulnerable populations resulting in self-sufficiency and partners with re-entering citizens (Ex-Offenders) to lead programs that aide in the elimination of gang and other counter-criminal activity. Dr. Davis is also responsible for implementing a technology program as a deterrent to unemployment, recidivism, and criminal activity.
- Phoenix Eyre, CEO of The Genesis Development Collaborative (GenDev), has a Master’s Degree in Social Entrepreneurship from Pepperdine University including Research in digital models for rapid education and employment of vulnerable populations. He condensed Pepperdine University’s Masters in Entrepreneurship program into a 40 page booklet for classroom presentation resulting in a sustainable business plan ready to pitch to investors at the completion of the course. As CEO of GenDev, a tech company that possesses the advanced virtual reality software that has been used by the United States Departments of Defense and Energy for the past seven years for rapid engineering projects and virtual simulations/training. He is repurposing this defense software with the United Nations for rapid education, employment and innovation initiatives with vulnerable populations locally, children globally with UNICEF, and the refugee populations with the UN Foundation Council on Global Employment. GenDev is hosting virtual concerts and events with AAA celebrities to raise additional awareness and revenue for the education, employment and innovation pilot sites. GenDev has partnered locally with Community Centers, Inc. to implement the education/business incubation, employment and innovation programs with the LA City Mayor’s Office.