

Education and Skill Development

Life skills workshops are hosted on the street to provide direct and indirect paths to being a more prepared worker. Day Laborers can also benefit from the following educational courses:

General Education Development (GED) test preparation courses empower economically disadvantaged adults through classes taught in Spanish, helping them obtain job promotions, salary wages, and contribute to community's growth.

Computer Skill Development courses help adults develop basic computer skills while learning how to manage excel, PowerPoint, among other programs.

Business Entrepreneurship courses that provide Business 101 coaching for those interested in starting their own or those learning how to better manage their existing business.

The situation at the corner is better now—with the years it's been getting better. Some years ago we felt like we didn't have permission to be here—there were many more problems with the local businesses and the police used to bother us day laborers. The business owners would always try and get us out of there. With the [Multicultural] Institute here, they have opened many doors for us. Being able to go to the health clinic is one example and the relationship between the day laborers and the police improved.-Gabriel a day laborer

About the Multicultural Institute

We accompany immigrants in their transition from poverty and isolation to prosperity and participation

Founded in 1991, the Institute has continually nurtured partnerships with diverse civic, business and religious leaders. A board of directors oversee MI's work.

We are a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization.
Federal Tax ID# 91-1823468

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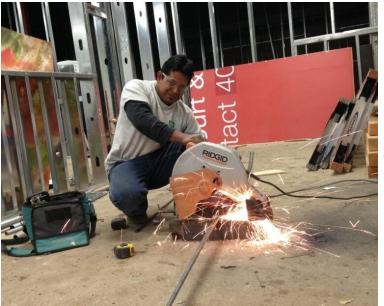


Life Skills/Day Laborer Program



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What is the Day Laborer Program?



The Life Skills/ Day Laborer program assists day laborers and other low-income adults in transitioning to better fair wage jobs and into the labor market by offering economic and educational opportunities to ultimately reach economic self-sufficiency. The program is offered in West Berkeley, Redwood City/North Fair Oaks, and Richmond. The Multicultural Institute (MI) staff conduct street outreach on weekdays serving day laborers individually and as a group with activities that include job-matching, medical/ health services, settling wage claims and other legal issues, educational opportunities and skill development, housing, and food and clothing distribution. Each year, more than 1,000 different individuals are involved in one or more program activities throughout the three sites.

Who are the Day Laborers?

An average of 117,600 workers in the United States work as day laborers on any given day. The day labor workforce is predominantly Latino immigrants with most of them being undocumented. The majority of them come to the US seeking greater economic opportunity and a better life, but are often confronted with many obstacles. Day laborers on the street are an established part of the labor market in many cities. The group includes men of all ages representing a variety of educational backgrounds and skill sets. Instead of trying to relocate workers,



we bring our program to the street. MI works with local officials and area businesses to ensure that there are safe areas to stand, trash receptacles, and no harassment of workers, the program also educates and encourages workers in their role as good neighbors.

Program Activities

Job-matching and Fair Wages

Providing job-matching services for businesses and residents to connect with workers for short-term, ongoing, and full-time opportunities. MI provides wage claim assistance and training workshops either run by our own staff or offered by partner organizations that come to the sites.

Housing

Housing continues to be an issue in the Bay area and an even greater issue for the day laborer population. Many day laborers live in crowded 1 bedroom apartments and many relocate from home to home. Since 2011, this program has provided housing in Redwood City/North Fairs Oaks to an average of 15 day laborers a year.

Health and Legal Services

Working with various public sector and non-profit partners we offer specialized services such as medical services for low-income individuals, and legal support for problems such as settling wage claims. Workers are eligible for many services but are often intimidated by procedures or believe that they can get by with no help. By acting as a bridge to agencies that want to aid immigrant workers but have cultural or logistical barriers to doing so effectively, we concretely aid individuals and prevent emergencies through the timely resolution of smaller problems.

