Pacific Gateway Workforce Innovation Network (City of Long Beach – Workforce Bureau) was one of five organizations nationwide to be awarded a $1 million Pathways to Justice Careers grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to implement a project that supports at-risk and/or court involved youth through:

- Exposure to the world of work in the career fields of justice and emergency services;
- Mentoring to encourage participants to graduate from high school or earn a high school equivalency degree;
- Supportive services that engage participants and deter them from engaging or recidivating with the criminal justice system.

**OBJECTIVE**
To create a program that supports participants who are at-risk of dropping out of school, in graduating or receiving their high school equivalency, and avoiding engaging or re-engaging with the justice system. The City of Long Beach will promote and support meaningful career exposure in the fields of justice and emergency services that encourages participants to complete their academic program and not become justice-involved so that they can enter these career fields.

**KEY CHALLENGE**
While work experience programs have been shown to have a positive impact on school attendance, dropout rates and school engagement we often struggle in finding meaningful opportunities for young people, especially those that are at-risk and/or justice involved. How can we access high-quality work experience for our participants within justice and emergency service careers despite challenges posed by the bureaucracy of local, state and federal fire and safety agencies?

**PROJECT STATUS**
Approaching project implementation through a pathway specific strategy allowed us to organize a sequence of activities and events that leveraged existing partnerships, associations, networks and internal resources. The following is a snapshot of our pathway specific program activities.

**Long Beach Fire Corps** - Participants interested in pursuing emergency service careers were placed with the Long Beach Fire Department. These participants completed CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), CPR, First Aid and Incident Command System (ICS) training. They went on ride alongs with Fire Prevention and Marine Safety and spent a day at the Fire Station getting to know the firefighters while learning about station life and getting hands on experience with station duties. In addition, they have assisted with the planning and coordination of READY Long Beach, an annual community disaster preparedness expo. The key to the success of the Long Beach Fire Corps was the hiring of current Search and Rescue members to serve as Squad Leaders.

**Law and Justice Academy** - Participants interested in pursuing justice careers were placed in the Law and Justice Academy. These participants spent time at the Long Beach Police Academy where they received Why’d You Stop Me?, police procedure and use of force training and were able to demonstrate the skills learned in the MILO Range simulator. Tours were provided at the Long Beach Police Department South and West Division Stations, Port of Long Beach Joint Command Center, Signal Hill Police Department, LA County Sheriff’s Aero Bureau and Department of Homeland Security (DHS). They observed preliminary hearings and a jury trial at the Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse. Guest speakers and demonstrations were provided by Long Beach Police Department’s Crime Lab and K-9 Officers, FBI, DEA, DHS and Probation.