Immediate Release

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Community Organizations Feed Thousands of Frontline Workers in Downtown Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA | June 18, 2020 - On Tuesday, June 23, Building Skills Partnership (BSP), SEIU - United Service Workers West, Los Angeles Federation of Labor, and LA Regional Food Bank will host a community food distribution caravan, feeding up to 1,500 essential property service workers and Los Angeles residents. The event will take place in downtown Los Angeles at the Los Angeles Trade Technical College - LATTC (244 W. 23rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90007) from 9:00AM to 12:00PM.

The event will provide large food baskets to property service workers and community members, many of whom are feeling the economic strain of COVID-19. SEIU-USWW estimates that over 13,000 property service workers in California, including janitors, security officers and airport workers have suffered from layoffs or reduced work hours due to the pandemic. Others who continue to report to work have been deemed essential in keeping buildings functioning and safe.

“Groceries make a big difference to a worker and their family who have been coping with financial hardship because of COVID-19,” said Luis Sandoval, Interim Executive Director of Building Skills Partnership. “Now more than ever, it is important that we come together to support essential workers who are providing a frontline of defense in community buildings across the state.”

Building Skills Partnership and event hosts expect 1,500 cars to line up alongside LATTC at 9:00AM on Tuesday. Attendees are expected to open their trunks to allow volunteers to load their cars with a food basket, while still complying with statewide social distancing measures.
Prior to the event, Building Skills Partnership granted $50,000 worth of stipends for workers to use towards food and groceries. The initiative reached over 600 families and was made possible by several foundations, including United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Crankstart, The San Francisco Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, The San Diego Foundation, UnidosUS and other donors.

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**About Building Skills Partnership**

Building Skills Partnership (BSP) is a 501(c)3 non-profit collaboration between SEIU-United Service Workers West, janitorial employers, building owners, and community leaders. Since 2007, BSP has worked to level the playing field for California’s property service workers and their families by increasing their skills, access to education, and opportunities for career and community advancement. Operating in seven major cities throughout California, BSP reaches 3,500 workers annually in career and education programs that enable their personal and professional success.

Since the onset of the pandemic, BSP has partnered with several foundations, including the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Crankstart, UnidosUS, The San Francisco Foundation, United Way of Greater Los Angeles, The Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, and the SEIU-USWW, to develop rapid response initiatives that connect workers virtually to employment, health, and emergency resources. ([www.buildingskills.org](http://www.buildingskills.org))