

Public

Affairs

Committee

PUBLIC

POLICY

POSITIONS



WorkingWardrobes®



The Power of a Paycheck

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December 2017

From the CEO:

In May 2017, our Board of Directors approved a plan to re-invigorate a Public Affairs program. Since then, we formed a Public Affairs Committee to help guide and prioritize our activities.

This publication is our first effort to identify and affirm the policy principles important to Working Wardrobes, our board of directors, volunteers and our clients.

It is not our purpose here to define with exact precision what Working Wardrobes' position will be on any given issue. Rather, we hope these positions will show our consistency, predictability and collaborative stance in support of workforce development and job training for men, women, young adults and veterans and against policies that hinder career advancement for these population groups. Our goal is to provide resources and support for unemployed and underemployed individuals looking to reestablish themselves in the workforce. Every issue will be considered on its merits and in its own due time, and we reserve the right to make exceptions in certain cases.

We hope the efforts of our Public Affairs Committee in composing this document will be appreciated. Please contact us if you have questions or suggestions. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jerri Rosen
CEO/Founder

Introduction

In 2017, Working Wardrobes began the process to re-invigorate a Public Affairs Program. The purpose of our public affairs program is to better educate public agencies and government officials on the vision, mission and accomplishments of Working Wardrobes. These guidelines affect federal, state and local-level policy and administrative regulations across programs and service delivery.

As part of this program's direction, we embarked on a process to develop policy principles that will help guide our work. These policy principles are not intended to be exhaustive, but generally comprehensive to the extent that they are consistent with our vision and mission.

Working Wardrobes Mission Statement:

At Working Wardrobes, we do everything in our power to help men, women, young adults and veterans overcome difficult challenges, so they can achieve the dignity of work.

Our Values:

- Providing workforce readiness services in an atmosphere of dignity that empowers the lives of our clients.
- Achieving sustainability for our clients and our organization – with integrity.
- Celebrating the successes of our clients, collaborative partners, donors and volunteers.
- Partnering with corporations, educational programs, community agencies and civic partners.
- Engaging the power of volunteerism.

Board Mission Statement:

We are committed to the financial sustainability and growth of Working Wardrobes through innovation, teamwork and love.

Team Mission Statement:

We are committed to fulfilling the mission of Working Wardrobes by demonstrating leadership, professionalism, integrity and innovation in a passionate and joyful environment.

Leadership

- We exemplify our mission, values and goals with clients, volunteers and donors by creating a profound impact on others' lives.

Professionalism

- We plan, collaborate and perform with excellence.

Integrity

- We acknowledge and cherish all individuals.
- We set the standard as role models within our community.

Innovation

- We challenge the status quo by expanding the mission with creativity and moxie.

Workforce Development

Working Wardrobes believes workforce development is a key underpinning to the economic success of men, women, young adults and veterans the organization serves. Our workforce must be educated, skilled and trained. Working Wardrobes supports public policies that promote development of professional and in-demand skills sought by employers:

Working Wardrobes generally supports:

- Workforce and education programs that align program content with the needs of industry to provide employers and businesses with the skilled workforce necessary to compete in the global economy.
- Career entry and upward mobility for all Southern Californians who want to work, including populations with more challenging barriers to employment, with a focus on underemployment.
- Workforce and training programs that are accessible for all Southern Californians who want to work.
- Ensuring that everyone has access to a marketable set of skills necessary to get a good job that provides long-term economic self-sufficiency, financial security and dignity.
- Effective and collaborative public and private partnerships with area businesses that provide funding for internships, training and workplace learning experiences that develop career technical skills for individuals.
- Aligning, coordinating, and integrating programs and services to maximize limited resources to achieve scale and impact, while also providing the right services to clients, based on each client's particular and potentially unique needs, including any needs for skills-development.

Veteran Services

Working Wardrobes is the premier provider in Orange County for veteran services. From outreach to employment, our services are offered to clients in Southern California through an entire collaborative network.

To further support our veterans and their transition to civilian life, Working Wardrobes generally supports:

- Comprehensive wrap around programming specifically addresses the unique challenges facing veterans to develop skills and obtain employment during the transition from military to civilian life.
- Industry specific job training provides opportunities for careers in a number of high-demand, high-growth industries including:
 - IT certifications through CompTIA
 - Armed Security Officer
 - American Banking Teller certification
 - Customer Service

Each training program provides participants with intensive, short-term training that rapidly moves them closer to their employment goals and higher wages.

- Unique and vitally needed services provided for veteran spouses and caregivers include workforce readiness workshops, job training, and job placement.
- Retention services are available for all veterans to ensure a successful transition even after employment. Services include periodic phone calls to check their progress, Job Club workshops to continue skill building and case management.
- Engage and outreach with local public and private companies looking to hire skilled and employment-ready veterans.

Economic Development

Working Wardrobes is dedicated to supporting hard and soft skills job training and job placement for men, women, young adults and veterans. To this end, Working Wardrobes will bring together active stakeholders, including local, state and federal policy makers, who all desire the same outcome.

To further economic development in Orange County and the surrounding communities, Working Wardrobes generally supports:

- Policies and funding that help produce a trained workforce to bridge skills gaps.
- The pursuit of policies that create and retain jobs and strengthen our local economy.
- Economic development programs for our collaborative network of community-based nonprofit organizations and educational institutions to produce a more qualified workforce.
- Providing meaningful incentives for employers to create new jobs and strengthen our workforce pool.
- Economic development incentives, public/private partnerships and other innovative programs.