



Making Sense of California's Economy: Real Cost Pressures and Household Impacts Facing Los Angeles

Informational Hearing

**Paramount City Hall
(Council Chambers)**

16400 Colorado Avenue
Paramount, CA 90723
9:30am-11:00am

I. Welcome

- Opening remarks from Assemblymember José Luis Solache, Jr., Chair, and members

II. Panel 1- Household Impacts and Cost Pressures on Workers and Learners

A strong, inclusive workforce is essential to tackling California's affordability challenges. Approximately 50% of learners in the county are concurrently employed, often-working long hours in low-wage service industries. Empowering working learners who represent a significant portion of the future labor pool with better financial support, flexible employment opportunities, and career-aligned job pathways will help reduce economic insecurity and promote upward mobility.

- Saba Waheed, Director, UCLA Labor Center
- Hina Malik, Labor Studies researcher and Alumni
- Sandra Michel, Deputy Director, Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board (SELACO WDB)
- Asia Poston, SELECO program participant

III. Panel 2- Microbusiness Affordability and Cost Pressures

California is home to approximately 3.8 million microbusinesses, with the majority located in Southern California (67%). Data indicates a strong correlation between microbusiness density and local economic health: higher concentrations of microbusinesses are associated with lower unemployment rates and increased average household incomes across communities not just for business owners, but also for all residents. By increasing employment, enabling income generation, and keeping economic activity rooted in local communities, microbusinesses play a vital role in addressing California's affordability especially in regions facing high housing and living costs.

- Alma Marquez, CEO of Del Sol, Microbusiness Promotoras
- Ariell (Ari) Pe, Owner of Labwerkz
- Jennifer Cox, Owner of Momma Osa
- Pat Nye, Executive Regional Director, Small Business Development Center

IV. Public Comment

V. Closing Remarks/Adjournment