

# Daily News

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2000

## Job program hailed as model for others

By Rick Orlov  
Staff Writer

Los Angeles city officials called Wednesday for expansion of a job training program to help people who will be forced off welfare in the next year.

"What we have here is a model program that can be used by other city departments and other governmental jurisdictions to provide training and a wage that is livable for people and get them into a career and not just a community service job," Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg said.

Since the program was developed in cooperation with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Alliance and the Service Employees International Union Local 347 last year, 66 people have gone through the six-month training program and been hired into permanent jobs.

"This has made a big difference in my life" said Jose Sandoval, who

now has a job in the Street Tree Division. "I never thought I would have a chance to buy a house and now I can. A lot of people think that being 50 means your life is over. For me, it's just beginning."

Anthony Thigpinn of the Metropolitan Alliance said such real-life examples need to be stressed in getting people off welfare and into good jobs.

Thigpinn said the group will be working with the county and other cities in the county to set up programs similar to Los Angeles' City Jobs Program.

Under it, selected workers are given on-the-job training and also receive classroom training as they are paid \$9 an hour plus benefits.

"For \$9,000, we are offering opportunity and hope to people and getting good, skilled workers," Goldberg said. "We hear all the time about the need for skilled workers . . . Someone has to train them."