# Alliance for Responsible Apparel Manufacturing and Purchasing
# Project Overview

In 2024, Garment Worker Center launched a new, collaborative initiative named the Alliance for Responsible Apparel Manufacturing and Purchasing (ARAMP). This unique program unites garment workers, advocates, and community stakeholders to **elevate industry standards, empower workers, and foster a marketplace where ethical values guide every thread**.

The L.A. garment industry faces systemic issues stemming from power imbalances between factory owners and brands worldwide, thereby **perpetuating exploitation and sweatshop labor conditions**. Taking the “low road” has led to a culture of unfair competition for ethical manufacturers, who are increasingly disincentivized to foster healthy workplaces.

ARAMP’s goal is to build a high road that cuts through the L.A. garment industry by connecting ethical garment manufacturers with institutional purchasers, such as cities and universities with anti-sweatshop purchasing policies, unions, and community organizations. **This envisioned high road for the industry lays the path towards ethical practices, eschewing sweatshops, establishing trained and skilled workers as industry standard-bearers**, supporting small businesses owners, and promoting collaboration between responsible employers and supportive purchasers to invest in a workforce that sets new benchmarks for employment quality.

This initiative includes labor standards for manufacturers, capacity building of workers and local factories, and market-driven incentives. **Workers will be trained and empowered to monitor conditions and report violations, creating a bottom-up approach to ethical standards enforcement**. Expanding market access beyond traditional, low road fashion markets can help local businesses be more resilient, enabling ethical manufacturers to build capacity and improve, which, ultimately, fosters a more sustainable and competitive domestic industry.

**We aim to build a marketplace that promotes equity and justice while building our capacity and community assets**. Ultimately, by strengthening and expanding the field of ethical garment manufacturers in L.A., we will be able to connect more workers to the workplaces they deserve, where health, equity, and fair wages are guaranteed.