



WASHINGTON WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION

MAKING AN IMPACT:
ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR
ALL EXPANSION

Like the rest of the nation, Washington state is experiencing a workforce gap - a gap that must be addressed with targeted funding to fill the workforce pipeline and support both workers and employers.

The economy remains uncertain, making Washington’s 12 Local Workforce Development Boards (Local Boards) more critical than ever. Employers continue to struggle to find qualified talent to fill more than 213,000 vacant jobs across the state, including thousands in critical industries like Healthcare, Education, Manufacturing, and Hospitality. Workers are finding it increasingly difficult to return to the workforce due to lack of childcare and the rising costs of housing, food and basic necessities.

Working alongside state and local partners, businesses, community colleges, economic development leaders and others and with an ongoing \$13 million investment in the Economic Security for All (EcSA) program, we can tackle these challenges and build strong, vibrant communities with healthy economies that provide opportunity for all.

THE NEED IS GROWING

- We have more than 150,000 unemployed Washingtonians.
- Employers have more than 213,000 job openings.
- Job seekers are finding it increasingly difficult to return to the workforce due to rising costs of housing, childcare and other necessities.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Local Boards are a success story. We invest in people.

Local Workforce Development Boards (Local Boards) are key parts of the solution to fill the workforce pipeline and support employers with their workforce needs.

**LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
BOARDS IMPACT**

STATEWIDE 2020/21

- Local Boards have a 74.7% placement and retention rate, matching job seekers with good-paying careers and actively working on talent acquisition for employers.
- Local Boards served over 15,000 employers.
- Local Boards served 78,000 workers.



IMPACTING LIVES

Local Boards are working with the Governor's Office, state Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, and the Employment Security Department (ESD) to establish a strategic, ongoing state investment of \$13.8 million in the expanded Economic Security for All (EcSA) program.

This EcSA expansion will provide responsive funding to bring local solutions directly to career seekers and employers. The \$13.8 million investment will:

- **Expand employer engagement.** Increased Local Board capacity to build and sustain meaningful partnerships with employers, allowing regions to convene key stakeholders to develop and expand services that most effectively serve local businesses.
- **Aid in poverty prevention.** There is a "benefits cliff" for many residents that can cause them to leave the workforce and fall back into poverty. The funding will allow Local Boards to navigate customers to the services and tools they need to stay in the workforce and continue on to long-term financial security.
- **Expand investment in highly-skilled, job-ready individuals.** Increasing resources for skills-based training that lead to measurable gains and credential attainment would increase the employability of those served – especially disadvantaged populations.
- **Intensify focus on and outreach to priority at-risk and underserved populations.** Community engagement is the most effective way to make a meaningful connection to underserved populations.
- **Support career seekers in accessing earn-and-learn opportunities.** Work experience and cost of training are significant barriers to job seekers re-entering the workforce. State investment in regional sector engagement will allow Local Boards to provide resources to cultivate, develop and fund work-experience and earn-and-learn opportunities.

ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR ALL EXPANSION WILL FILL GAPS

A Workforce Impact Fund, focused on 3 broad, proven workforce strategies to transition Washingtonians into good jobs.

Boost Job-Seeker Supports

This means providing paid internships, paid community service work, stipends, and other income supports in conjunction with occupational training and placement into middle-income career opportunities. Services include: internship placements, cohort-based occupational training, training stipends, scholarships, registered pre-apprenticeship programs, on-the-job training, incumbent worker training, and registered apprenticeships.

Increase Local Service Capacity

Local Boards have a scalable, big-tent approach that connects the strengths of local community-based organizations, education, business and other partners with

services offered through the public workforce system. This broad approach will be implemented through established networks of local partners that provide start-to-finish career coaching services including outreach, referrals to skill development and training opportunities, and referrals to wrap around support services that enable participation and success.

Connect Wrap-Around Supports

Wrap-around supports, including childcare, housing, and behavioral health support, are needed to enable people navigating poverty to participate in programs that will help them reengage in the workforce. Local Boards will utilize additional capacity and investment to ensure those in need of these supports and services are navigated to them with a focus on moving every job seeker to economic security.

IMPACTING THE ECONOMY

We cannot talk about economic development without having a robust effort in workforce development. With an ongoing \$13.8 million in EcSA expansion funds, Local Boards will be able to increase our work to:

- Engage more employers in workforce recruitment and retention efforts.
- Serve more career seekers in navigating the many opportunities for training, credentials, apprenticeships, earn-and-learn opportunities and more to move into and stay in the workforce.
- Support customers that are at risk of falling into poverty in accessing services and training to continue on the path to financial independence.

LET'S MAKE AN IMPACT

Washington's public workforce development system, made up of 12 local business-led workforce development boards representing nearly 15,000 businesses and serving nearly 78,000 Washingtonians every year. Local Boards work in concert with the many complementary workforce, training and economic development groups to build strong communities and resilient economies that work for all Washingtonians.

Local Boards are the frontline system capable of delivering an equitable economic recovery for our state. We stand ready to continue to serve the needs of our local communities, making effective public investments in solutions that work.

The EcSA expansion is an investment in the local economic ecosystems that support families and employers across our state.