



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Welcome to our new CEO, Miriam Halliday!

DECEMBER 2021



Miriam Halliday, Workforce Southwest Washington CEO

We are excited to announce Miriam Halliday as our new Chief Executive Officer. Miriam will be responsible for continued implementation of WSW's new [strategic plan](#),

organizational management, development of statewide and national strategic partnerships, and fund development.

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Quality Jobs Initiative

The Quality Jobs initiative is a commitment to designing and developing a regional approach with workers, employers, job seekers, community-based organizations, economic developers and local municipalities to define, support and promote quality jobs.

How companies and job seekers are shaping the future of quality employment

What makes a position a quality job? [Workforce Southwest Washington](#) (WSW) and our partners in the [Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative](#) (CWWC) are seeking answers to that question.

Together, the three workforce boards that comprise the CWWC oversee a bi-state labor market for the six-county region and have jointly launched a [quality jobs initiative](#).



Darcy Hoffman - Workforce Southwest Washington Director of Business Services

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Quality Jobs Highlight



[Banfield Pet Hospital's Diversity Resource Groups elevate voices and solve community problems](#)

For additional Quality Jobs updates, visit our [Quality Jobs Initiative page](#).



Statewide workforce system change to improve access for historically-excluded communities

Thanks to the efforts of WSW's former CEO, Kevin Perkey, and his peers at the [Washington Workforce Association](#), on December 1, 2021, Gov. Jay Inslee's office announced: "In response to a June 2021 request from local workforce development councils to designate specific additional WIOA focus populations based on the communities most directly impacted by employment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am hereby designating the following as workforce focus populations for

planning and performance accountability: Black, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations, and Pacific Islander communities; Latinos; LGBTQ communities; expectant persons; and veterans. This action aligns with our efforts to address historic racial inequity and systemic barriers to obtaining resources, services, and opportunities through the workforce system. It also aligns with our state’s focus on changing or removing systemic and structural barriers faced by communities of color and other marginalized communities and will help drive our state’s effort to achieve an equitable economic recovery.”

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WSW and partners receive \$2.3M to support childcare for 150 job seekers

[Workforce Southwest Washington](#) (WSW), [Worksystems](#) and [Clackamas Workforce Partnership](#) have been awarded a combined \$2.3 million grant from the U.S.

Department of Labor to support the childcare needs of 150 job seekers in the region while they participate in training to prepare for a new career.

People experiencing poverty are often unable to participate in job training because they lack access to childcare. Coupled with the high cost, which averages \$1,500 per month

in our region, lack of accessible and affordable childcare becomes an insurmountable barrier that disproportionately impacts women and people of color.

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KeyBank 



CITY OF
Vancouver
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Pilot to connect Fourth Plain community and businesses with workforce services

In early 2022, WSW will launch a new pilot to improve access to workforce system services for individuals and businesses along the Fourth Plain corridor. Also known as the International District, Fourth Plain is Vancouver's most diverse community. More than 30 languages are spoken, and more than 30 percent of residents are communities of color. The corridor is home to over 150 mostly small, locally-owned businesses.

Funds from [KeyBank](#) and the [City of Vancouver](#) will support a part-time workforce navigator. This individual will build and deepen connections between the public workforce system and the Fourth Plain community, assisting with access to training, education and employment. The navigator will also aid corridor businesses with employee recruitment.

So that a greater number of people can access services, the navigator will split time at several locations including the [Fourth Plain Forward](#) office, and City of Vancouver and/or Fourth Plain Coalition sites, and the Vancouver [WorkSource](#) center.

To learn more contact Sr. Program Manager Benton Waterous at bwaterous@workforcesw.org.

Construction workforce plan focus: attracting new talent and employee retention

In the next 10 years, more than 15,000 new construction jobs are expected in the region. One-fifth of the region's construction workforce is at, or nearing, retirement age and the need for construction workers is intensifying.

To help businesses address the growing need for employees, Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) and its partners in the Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative (CWWC), recently released the region's [2021-2023 Construction Workforce Plan](#).

[Read More](#)



We're hiring!

WSW is seeking a **Director of Programs** to oversee program implementation processes, budget, performance and data management, contracted service providers, staffing,

community partnerships and lead grant and revenue development opportunities. Join our small (18 person) but mighty nonprofit and be part of a collaborative team striving to make a difference.

Learn More &
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Upcoming Request for Proposals

Workforce Southwest Washington will be releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for WIOA Title 1 Adult & Dislocated Worker workforce services in January 2022.

Grantees will be responsible for delivering holistic, population-specific workforce services as part of a network of community-based organizations across Southwest Washington providing culturally-responsive career coaching, job training, support services, and management of funds using the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) regulations, specifically Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker programs.

The Request for Proposals will open January 10, 2022, and close April 5, 2022. Check our [Funding Opportunities page](#) in January for the application.

To be added to the distribution list and receive notification when the RFP is released, please email Julia Maglione at jmaglione@workforcesw.org.

Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW), a nonprofit organization, funds community prosperity by investing in services that help individuals gain skills to obtain good-paying jobs or advance in their careers and help companies recruit, train and retain workers. Our investments strengthen the region's businesses and contribute to a strong economy. Since

2003, we've invested more than \$100 million in Southwest Washington. WSW is the Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) designated by federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) legislation to oversee the public workforce system in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. Learn more at www.workforcesw.org.

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Workforce Southwest Washington

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development. WSW is an equal opportunity employer/

program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon

request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Relay 711.