



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Workforce Development News

JUNE 2022



Workforce Southwest Washington welcomes new board members

In June, WSW welcomed 11 new members to its volunteer board of directors representing a diverse array of business owners, entrepreneurs and leaders in the private, nonprofit and public sectors.

As the local workforce development board designated by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), WSW's board must be composed of representatives from business, workforce and organized labor, post-secondary education, economic and community development, and governmental entities.

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Celebrating 20 years of workforce development in Southwest Washington

Founded in June 2002 as the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) has made significant impact on the region. Since its founding, WSW has invested more than \$120 million to support business growth through recruitment, training and retention of workers and in training and employment services for adults and youth in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.

During its 20 years, WSW has seen significant changes. The nonprofit workforce development board rebranded and changed names, and its investments have piloted programs to help families get out of poverty, brought career services and trainings to job seekers and workers wanting to advance in their careers, and prepared youth for the workforce. It has centered equity, diversity and inclusion in its policies and practices and its board of directors has become more diverse to reflect the Southwest Washington community more closely. Innovation during the COVID-19 pandemic has led to new programs and the growth of virtual services across the three-county area and outreach and location-based services have made the workforce system more accessible.

[Read More and Explore the Timeline](#)



Grants available for employee training leading to quality jobs and workforce equity

CLOSES JUNE 30, 2022

People are your organizations greatest asset and investing in their training is a powerful demonstration of how much you value them. Today's employees want to work for an organization that will provide opportunities for them to learn, grow and advance.

Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) has grant funds to reimburse companies for training their existing employees. We are looking for companies that share our dedication to equity.

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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.

As a result of the Quality Jobs Council meetings, the [Columbia-Willamette Workforce Partnership \(CWWC\)](#) created the Quality Jobs Framework. The framework was designed jointly with key stakeholders, including businesses, workforce boards, workers and community-based organizations.

During May, Workforce Southwest Washington, Worksystems, Inc. and the Clackamas Workforce Partnership took part in the Quality Jobs Retreat. The retreat focused on exploring the completed Quality Jobs Framework and creating action items to operationalize the framework in the region.

At its June meeting, Workforce Southwest Washington's Board of Directors approved the CWWC Joint Board Resolution, committing to implementing the Quality Jobs Initiative.

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

Labor market report shows manufacturing sector is strong



With nearly 100,000 jobs and a payroll of \$10.1 billion, Advanced Manufacturing accounts for 8% of the greater Southwest Washington-Portland region's private sector employment and 11% of payroll. The region's economy is highly dependent on the manufacturing sector.

[Workforce Southwest Washington](#) and partners in the [Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative](#) (CWCC) recently released an updated [Advanced Manufacturing Labor Market Report](#). First published in 2016, and revised in 2018, COVID delayed the planned 2020 update until recently.

[Learn More](#)

Workforce Board data and recommendations to support construction industry's current and future workforce



With more than 77,000 jobs and a payroll of \$6.8 billion, construction accounts for nearly 7% of the Southwest Washington-Portland metro area's private-sector employment and 7% of payroll. The sector contributed approximately \$7.9 billion to the area's Gross Domestic Product in 2020.

Construction is one of four key industries supported by the local public workforce system and the workforce development board, [Workforce Southwest Washington](#) (WSW), which recently released an updated [Construction Labor Market Report](#).

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Supporting LGBTQ+ Employees during Pride Month and beyond

Pride Month has been celebrated in June since 1970 when the first Pride was hosted in New York, commemorating and celebrating the defiant and groundbreaking Stonewall Riots the year prior. Despite years of Pride parades and protests, workers in Washington State did not gain legal protection from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations until 2006. Continued rights for LGBTQ+ individuals to adopt and marry was finally legalized in 2012.

While significant strides have been made to protect their rights, members of the LGBTQ+ community continue to face barriers in the workplace. A 2018 [report by the Human Rights Campaign](#) found that 46% of LGBTQ+ employees are closeted at work. The report found that the top reasons employees do not report negative comments about the LGBTQ+ community at work is because they believe that nothing will be done about it and that reporting these comments will damage workplace relationships.

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Seeking organizations to operate youth internship program



WSW is seeking proposals from qualified entities to facilitate and oversee, steward, and ensure the success of *SummerWorks*, Southwest Washington's largest youth summer internship investment.

Since 2019, SummerWorks has provided hundreds of young adults in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties with work-readiness training, job shadowing, informational interview opportunities, and paid summer internships with local businesses.

[Learn More and
Apply](#)

We're hiring!

The initiatives, programs and services WSW funds assist people in our community who are striving for self-sufficiency. This work builds upon the dignity, pride and security that comes from having a good-paying job with benefits and room for growth and career advancement. If this interests you, we are hiring for:

Accountants Payable Specialist

Project Manager

WSW offers competitive salaries and benefits, professional development opportunities and is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. More information is available on our Careers webpage.

Learn More &
Apply

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 \$120 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

805 Broadway, Suite 412 | Vancouver, WA 98660

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request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Relay 711.