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Subsidies available for nonprofits, women-owned and other small businesses to hire student summer interns

Vancouver, Wash. (Oct. 1, 2024) – Small businesses and nonprofit organizations in Clark and Cowlitz counties that are short-staffed may be able to get assistance paying the salary of a summer intern with a Future Leaders Project (FLP) grant available through [Workforce Southwest Washington](#) (WSW).

Businesses owned by women, BIPOC and LGBTQ+ community members, veterans, nonprofits and community-based organizations are encouraged to complete an online application to request a subsidy to help pay the wages of an intern in summer 2025.

Online applications are due by **Friday, November 1, 2024, at 5 p.m.** and can be accessed at <https://workforcesw.org/flp-business-application-2025>.

The [Future Leaders Project](#) (FLP) is an initiative of [Workforce Southwest Washington](#) (WSW), [Columbia River Economic Development Council](#) (CREDC) and [Washington State University Vancouver](#) (WSU Vancouver) that aims to help cultivate diverse leaders for our community. FLP connects students from communities that have experienced longstanding inequities and exclusion and first-generation college students with business-sponsored summer internships, providing growth and professional development opportunities.

Internships are a valuable tool for both students and businesses. The young adults get hands-on, real-world work experience and the organization gets new energy and perspective, skills and visibility in the community.

Companies can learn about the Future Leaders Project and hiring interns by contacting Nolan Yaws-Gonzalez, Associate Director of Programs at Workforce Southwest Washington, at nyaws-gonzalez@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1066.

“WSW is grateful to have received another Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) focused grant from the [JP Morgan Chase Foundation](#). The funding we received in 2023, provided 13 nonprofit organizations and small businesses with the opportunity to host Future Leaders Interns during Summer 2024,” said Nolan Yaws-Gonzalez, Associate Director of Programs, who oversees WSW’s investment in the FLP.

Serving businesses, job seekers and youth in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.



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In 2024, grants from WSW funded internships at the Association of Science Communicators, Building Futures Foundation, Clark County Food Bank, Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC), Educational Opportunities for Children and Families, Fourth Plain Forward, Greater Vancouver Chamber, Hello Life Eating Disorder Recovery Services, Nut-Tritious Foods, Partners in Careers, PointNorth, and Southwest Washington Contractors Association (SWCA).

“It is exciting to see the impact these internships have on both the employer host sites and the Future Leaders Interns they host – it truly ends up being a win-win experience where businesses report they have increased capacity to tackle projects and student interns have the opportunity to gain real-world experience while expanding their networks and developing new skills,” said Yaws-Gonzalez.

Hosting FLP interns provides companies with benefits, including:

- Innovative ideas and fresh perspective.
- Support for projects employees might not have time to complete.
- A proven, cost-effective way to recruit and evaluate potential permanent employees.
- Opportunities for staff to gain supervisory skills by mentoring and managing interns.
- Effective ambassadors for your organization, as interns often help increase the visibility of their host organization with their peers and family members.
- Opportunities to promote community involvement and demonstrate your organization’s commitment to workforce development – an excellent public relations tool!

WSU Vancouver students should contact Bill Stahley, WSU Vancouver Employer Engagement Coordinator at bstahley@wsu.edu or 360.546.9273.

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[Workforce Southwest Washington](#) (WSW), a 501c3 nonprofit and the Local Workforce Development Board for Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties, is dedicated to leading a regional workforce development system where every individual has access to quality employment and every business has access to a highly skilled workforce. WSW designs, coordinates and funds workforce programs and services in collaboration with local partners. Our initiatives aim to equip both youth and adults with the essential skills, training, and education required for employment and career advancement. We aid in business growth by funding and collaborating with quality companies to facilitate recruitment, training, and retention of skilled employees.

The PY24 Future Leaders is supported by \$206,682 (65% of total) U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration federal funding and \$109,947 (35% of total) non-federal funding from the J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation.

Workforce Southwest Washington is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Relay 711.

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