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Workforce Southwest Washington and the Community Foundation Build Prosperity and Resilience with Department of Commerce Funding

Vancouver, Wash. (Jan. 17, 2025) – On January 16, [Workforce Southwest Washington](#) and the [Community Foundation for Southwest Washington](#) hosted United for Reinvestment, an event showcasing early successes spurred by \$5.5 million in grants from the Washington State Department of Commerce’s [Community Reinvestment Project](#) (CRP). These funds are being used to strengthen local businesses and nonprofits, especially those owned by or serving individuals from historically marginalized communities.

More than 70 people filled Fourth Plain Commons to hear from the diverse organizations putting these grant funds into action. Speakers touted the positive impact these investments are making in local communities and urged state legislators to continue funding the project in 2025. Attendees included area businesses, nonprofits, community leaders, lawmakers, representatives from the governor’s office and other key partners.

“We appreciate the Department of Commerce for fostering investments that empower local businesses to grow and thrive sustainably,” said Miriam Halliday, CEO of Workforce Southwest Washington. “Supporting small businesses strengthens the community and drives the vitality of the local economy.”

Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW), a nonprofit and the regional workforce development board, is allocating approximately \$3.6 million to bolster local small business growth and sustainability. These investments include funding for community partners whose programs help individuals find pathways to self-sufficiency through job training and employment.

The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington received \$1.9 million to provide grants to local nonprofits through its Social Justice and Resiliency Fund. These dollars are improving communities by building the capacity of local nonprofits that provide vital services and advocate for those with fewer opportunities.

“Even at this early stage, these dollars have become a stabilizing force for dozens of organizations and community members,” Community Foundation for Southwest Washington president Matt Morton said. “Targeted reinvestments like these allow our neighbors to overcome longstanding barriers and chart their own course to a better life.”



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CRP funding aims to support communities most impacted by failed policies like the war on drugs, particularly Black, Latine, and Tribal communities, businesses and organizations.

WSW Grant Recipients

- Business Impact NW
- Fourth Plain Forward
- Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber
- LatinoBuilt
- Lower Columbia Community Action Program
- WorkSource

Community Foundation Grant Recipients

- Ashby Family Services
- Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program
- Ethnic Support Council
- Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber
- Hispanic Disability Support SWWA
- Latino Community Resource Group
- Latino Leadership Northwest
- LNESc Upward Bound
- Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon
- Mullen-Polk Foundation
- Multilingual Community Association
- Northwest Native Chamber
- Odyssey World International Education Services
- One Community Health
- OneAmerica
- Rooted Schools
- The Foundation
- Unity Center
- Youth & Family Link
- YWCA

About Workforce Southwest Washington – [Workforce Southwest Washington](#) (WSW) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and the Local Workforce Development Board for Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties. WSW leads regional workforce development efforts, collaborating with partners to invest in workforce programs and services that equip individuals for employment, career growth, and self-sufficiency. WSW also supports business growth by funding and working with companies on recruitment, training, and employee retention.

About the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington – Established in 1984, the Community Foundation helps residents create a flourishing and just southwest Washington by fostering impactful giving, trusted partnerships and civic engagement. Its team of experts has partnered with local donors and professional advisors to establish more than 380 charitable funds. Collectively, these funds expand opportunities every year by providing grants for nonprofits and scholarships for students. Find out how you can become a part of its giving community at cfsww.org.

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



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WSW's PY24 Economic Security for All (EcSA) program is supported by \$673,261 (18% of total) U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration federal funding and (82% of total) State funds distributed by Washington State Employment Security Department: \$775,000 State Economic Security for All program funding and \$2,295,788 Department of Commerce's Community Reinvestment funding.