



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 2022

Quality Jobs Framework

Columbia Willamette
Workforce Collaborative
Quality Jobs Initiative



Quality Jobs Framework supports business growth and creates a more equitable economy

While the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced its [Good Jobs Initiative](#) in January 2022. The Southwest Washington-Portland region's three workforce development boards have been tackling the issues of job quality since 2021.

On July 18 the three boards ([Workforce Southwest Washington](#), [Worksystems](#) and [Clackamas Workforce Partnership](#)), operating in partnership as the [Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative \(CWWC\)](#), released the [Quality Jobs Framework](#), a blueprint of actionable, detailed strategies for companies to improve their jobs and work conditions and attract workers.

CWWC believes an equitable economic recovery must include strategies and actions that address long-standing inequities and economic disparities – something that is central to the framework.

[Read More](#)

High Tech Manufacturing Hiring Event October 13

WSW and the High Tech Council are co-hosting a hiring event on October 13 from 2-5 p.m. at [Clark College's Columbia Tech Center campus](#). More than a dozen companies will be at the event. All are seeking to fill numerous positions in a variety of departments. Candidates should dress professionally and be prepared to answer pre-screening questions and make an appointment for a job interview.

High Tech manufacturing is a growing field and provides competitive wages, comprehensive benefits and opportunities for job seekers, career changers and young adults. Please help spread the word about the event.

Positions available include:

- Machine Technicians
- Shipping Clerk
- Visual Inspectors
- Maintenance Specialists
- Electronic Assembler
- Buyer
- Equipment Technician
- Production Specialist
- And many more!

(on the job training provided)



October 13, 2022
2pm – 5pm



Clark College Columbia
Tech Center
18700 SE Mill Plain Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98683

[Get the Details](#)



SummerWorks Program Reaches Milestone

Launched in 2019, SummerWorks is the largest youth internship program in Southwest Washington, providing key career readiness, hands-on experience and paid summer jobs.

Originally launched as a partnership between Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW), [Educational Service District 112](#), WSW's [Next youth career center](#) and the [Division of Vocational Rehabilitation](#), the SummerWorks program aimed to fill a variety of workforce needs.

In Southwest Washington, approximately 7,600 youth ages 16 -21 are not engaged in work or school. According to a [report](#) by WSW and its Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative (CWWC) partners, for each year a youth remains out of the labor force, future earnings become reduced by two to three percent. Additionally, according to a [2009 Pew Charitable Trusts Report](#), for every year young people work, their income in their 20's rises 14-16 percent. Providing youth with internships and summer jobs increases their prospects for long-term career success.

[Read More](#)



Giving individuals the tools to ‘Thrive’

On July 1, 2022, the Thrive program began serving residents in Wahkiakum County. The program expansion aims to help people experiencing poverty and individuals from historically excluded groups in rural areas obtain quality employment and wrap-around support services.

Originally launched in 2020 in the Highlands and South Kelso neighborhoods of Longview in Cowlitz County, WA, the goal of Thrive is to help individuals and families move out of poverty while providing them with training and support services while they do so. The program focused on the two neighborhoods based on wage and employment data. [Workforce Southwest Washington](#) (WSW) was chosen as one of four workforce development boards in Washington state to pilot the program, with state funding from the [Economic Security for All](#) (EcSA) grant.

[Read More](#)

Meet the Business Services Team!

WSW's Business Services Team has the solutions to meet your company's workforce needs. From funding for high-impact training for your employees to recruitment and retention solutions, the team is ready to tackle the tough demands that Southwest Washington businesses face. The business team collaborates with regional workforce boards in the [Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative](#) to build a regional talent pool suited to in-demand job opportunities.



Darcy Hoffman
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES

As WSW's Director of Business Services, **Darcy Hoffman** oversees the incredible team responsible for the implementation of industry-specific workforce plans, funding for employee training, and the development of a demand-driven regional qualified talent pool. She also is spearheading the [Quality Jobs Initiative](#) for Southwest Washington, a collaborative regional approach to improving job quality for employees and businesses.

Before joining the team at WSW, Darcy was at WorkSource as the Southwest Washington Business Services Manager.

When not leading our brilliant business team, Darcy enjoys cooking and hanging out with her two dogs.

Get in touch with Darcy by email at dhoffman@workforcesw.org or by phone at 360.567.3172.



Alyssa Joyner
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER -
MANUFACTURING

From employee recruiting to training and retention, **Alyssa Joyner** can assess the workforce needs, identify opportunities, help develop solutions and connect you to resources to help your [manufacturing](#) business grow and thrive.

Prior to joining WSW, Alyssa was a Vet Corps Navigator with the WA Department of Veterans Affairs at Lower Columbia College.

A Navy veteran, Alyssa spent her time on the USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74) as a Quartermaster. After leaving the service, Alyssa returned home to Longview and began her civilian career.

Alyssa enjoys spending time with her family, from barbeques to family dinners to movie nights!

Get in touch with Alyssa by email at ajoyner@workforcesw.org or by phone at 360.567.1076.



Sean Moore works directly with [technology](#) and [healthcare](#) businesses in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties to identify investment opportunities for training and employment.

Sean is a graduate of Portland State University's Business School, where he earned his B.S. in International Marketing. He spent several years working in the Pacific Islands before returning to the Northwest.

Sean's favorite WSW initiative, so far, is the Healthcare Diversity Initiative, NW Promise, as he is passionate about creating access to opportunities for historically excluded communities! Sean loves to participate in various chamber of commerce events, volunteer on community advisory boards, and support efforts around justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.

Get in touch with Sean by email at smoore@workforcesw.org or by phone at 360.762.8569.

Working together to support local workforce development

The WSW Team hosted Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director of the [Workforce Training and Education Board \(WA State Workforce Board\)](#) and Deputy Director Nova Gattman for two days in August as we met with various partners and discussed the importance of local workforce development investment and initiatives. Thank you, Eleni and Nova, for visiting and for your partnership!

Thank you also to the WSW Board members and their teams who met with us, including Monte Constable, Chris Bailey, Mandy Kipfer, Lekha Fernandes, Stacey Smith, Renny Christopher and Adrienne Watson!



Welcome to our new partners!

Our recent WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Request for Proposals reflects a new WSW strategy, rooted in inclusion and equitable outcomes. WSW developed and implemented a new community network-based investment strategy that awarded smaller amount grants to more community-based organizations. The new strategy focused on increasing accessibility, expanding access and diversifying bidders who would submit proposals that would reflect the service populations but who may not already be familiar with, or a part of, the public workforce development system.

New investment strategy goals are to:

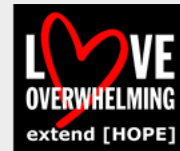
Ensure communities drive and lead investments,

Develop and sustain holistic, population-specific programs,

Expand career coaching and job training via a network of community-based organizations, and

Leverage technology to access career coaching, skills development, and training in brick-and-mortar and online, virtual environments.

WSW sought proposals from organizations to serve Southwest Washington in the roles of Housing Clark County, Housing Cowlitz/Wahkiakum counties, Reentry Clark County, Reentry Cowlitz/Wahkiakum counties and WorkSource (WIOA American Job Center). Through the new investment strategy, WSW and partners will develop and sustain holistic, population-specific service delivery, pivoting from a one-size-fits-all approach to workforce development toward a service delivery model that centers on listening to the distinct needs of each community and individual.



From the procurement process, [Career Team](#), [Love Overwhelming](#) and [Educational Opportunities for Children and Families](#) will be awarded contracts to provide workforce development services through the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker funding. We are excited to collaborate with these three phenomenal organizations to provide Southwest Washington with human-centered, population-specific services!

July 2021 - June 2022 Annual Report



WSW's investments in people and businesses contribute to the expansion and development of our economy so our region becomes one where economic prosperity and growth exist for every person. Read some highlights of our 2021-2022 Annual Report.



[Read More](#)

Workforce Impact Fund An investment in local solutions

With our peer workforce development boards across the state, WSW, as part of the Washington Workforce Association (WWA), is continuing to advocate for a state [Workforce Impact Fund](#) (WIF) that would provide a \$50 million investment each budget cycle to empower Local Workforce Boards with flexible funding that brings local solutions directly to job seekers and businesses.

The state Workforce Impact Fund would:

- Significantly expand employer engagement
- Expand investment in highly skilled, job-ready individuals
- Intensify focus on and outreach to priority at-risk and underserved populations
- Expand work experience and earn-and-learn opportunities

[Learn More](#)

Washington Workforce Association Conference - Stronger Together



Don't miss this opportunity to equip yourself with strategies and information to help solve the issues facing our local workforce.

Early bird registration closes on September 30!

[Learn More & Register](#)

Community Listening Sessions and Workforce Survey – Coming in December

In December, WSW will host listening sessions and distribute a survey to hear from community-based organizations, nonprofits, partners and other groups serving historically underrepresented communities, women, people leaving the justice system, and people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, to gather thoughts and input on how the workforce system can support and bolster this work and build partnerships to increase access to workforce development services.

Please watch your email for details and a registration link. If you are interested in participating and to ensure you receive the information, please email your name, organization and email address with the subject line “Community Listening Session

Interest” to WSW’s Director of Communications, Julia Maglione, at jmaglione@workforcesw.org.

CHIPS and Science Act of 2022



The WSW Team was part of the CHIPS Act press conference at nLight with Senators Cantwell and Murray and we are meeting with economic development and education partners to discuss needs and opportunities around workforce development funding for the region.

[Read More](#)

Lekha Fernandes appointed Director of the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises



Congratulations to our Board Member Lekha Fernandes on her new position as Director of the Office of Minority and Women's Business! We are happy for you, Lekha, and excited for your new team.

[Read More](#)



Columbia River Economic Development Council Events

Don't miss these upcoming events from our partners at the [Columbia River Economic Development Council!](#)

Virtual Fall Luncheon - [Register Online](#)

September 28, 2022 from 12pm - 1:30pm via Zoom

Join CREDC online as they explore resource adequacy across the energy sector.

Grow Clark County: Entrepreneurship

November 9, 2022 from 4:30pm - 6pm at CREDC's Office

A panel of professionals and CREDC's business accelerator cohort will discuss entrepreneurship in Clark County. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Watch the website for a registration link, coming soon!

Washington State Parks Disability Pass

Washington State Parks offers a one-year (temporary disability) and five-year (permanent disability) pass.

Both passes are no cost to eligible Washington state residents and provide:

Free entry to state parks - no Discover Pass required when visiting a state park

Free watercraft launch

Free trailer dump

50% discount on nightly camping or moorage fees

Ability to reserve ADA accessible campsites

[Read More](#)

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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