



## The Workforce Wire - September 2025 Edition

### **The Impact of Community Reinvestment in Southwest Washington**



Workforce Southwest Washington and our partners across the state have been able to use Washington State Department of Commerce Community Reinvestment Funds to create lasting impacts for residents and small businesses.

Read our blog to see how these funds are positively impacting our communities!

[Read the blog here](#)

### **Remembering Nick Massie: A Dedicated Leader and Board Member**



## Remembering Nick Massie



workforce  
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

In mid-July, our community experienced the passing of Nick Massie, a dedicated board member and true advocate for workforce development.

Nick believed deeply in creating opportunities for all. His passion for service, steady leadership, and unforgettable humor left a lasting impact on our team, partners, and community.

We invite you to read our tribute and the reflections shared by our staff as we honor Nick's life and legacy.

[Read our tribute here](#)

## State of the Labor Market in Southwest Washington



Southwest Washington's labor market is incredibly diverse, vibrant, and dynamic. Each of its three counties, Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum, has its own unique specialties and charms.

In our latest blog, we teamed up with Emily Robertson, Regional Labor Economist for Southwest Coastal Washington at the Washington Employment Security Department, to break down the state of the labor market and share insights into the region's projected growth.

[Read the blog here](#)

## Building Bridges: A Pathway to Safe Transportation and Success



The Interstate Bridge Replacement is a major infrastructure project that will create a safer, modern connection between Oregon and Washington—and it will take thousands of skilled workers to make it happen.

Workforce Southwest Washington and our partners are focused on preparing local job seekers to step into these high-demand roles. From apprenticeships to career coaching, we're helping people gain the skills they need to build the bridge and their futures.

Read our blog to learn how we're building pathways to opportunity.

[Read the blog here](#)

## Supporting Workers and Businesses Through Change: Rapid Response in Action



Workforce Southwest Washington helps turn change into opportunity.

When a local business faces layoffs or a full facility shutdown, we step in with Rapid Response to ease the transition for both employers and employees.

Read our blog to learn how this critical process works and how we recently supported Hood Packaging workers in taking their next steps forward.

[Read the blog here](#)

## Transition to New WorkSource One-Stop Operator Effective October 1



In June of this year, WSW released a Request for Proposals (RFP) soliciting proposals from dedicated and innovative organization to operate WorkSource centers and connection sites in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties starting in October 2025. We are excited to announce that based on the recommendation of the RFP Scoring Committee, WSW's Board of Directors has awarded the proposal submitted by Career Path Services.

## Building Better Workplaces: A Breakfast Event on the State of the Workforce



**BUILDING BETTER WORKPLACES**

A Breakfast Event by  
The Columbia-Willamette  
Workforce Collaborative

Join us and our Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative partners, [Clackamas Workforce Partnership](#) and [Worksystems](#), on October 21 for a special workforce breakfast event!

Connect with regional leaders as we present the latest workforce data and insights shaping our economy, along with actionable strategies to strengthen retention and create more effective workplaces.

Early bird pricing is available through September 30 with code SOTW.

Space is limited, register today

[Click here to register!](#)

## **NEXT Success is now at the Fourth Plain Commons!**



Career coaches from our youth employment center, NEXT Success, are available at Fourth Plain Commons every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (appointments recommended).

Young adults ages 16–24 who are not in school can stop by for free career and education support.

Click below to see all NEXT locations and hours of operation.

[Read the article](#)

## **WWA Fall Conference: Innovate. Elevate. Accelerate. The Future of Workforce Development**



**Innovate. Elevate.  
Accelerate.**  
The Future of Workforce Development

Registration is open for the Washington Workforce Association's 2025 Fall Conference!

Join the Washington Workforce Association November 4–6 in Tacoma, WA, as they bring together local leaders, industry experts, workforce professionals, and elected officials from across the state to connect, collaborate, and tackle the challenges shaping our workforce system.

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the conversation and drive innovative solutions for Washington's future.

[Register today](#)

## Intel Layoff Transition Assistance



Attention employers looking for talent!

Join our partners for a Job and Resource Career Expo on Wednesday, September 24, to connect with recently laid off workers from Intel, veterans returning from active duty, and other individuals actively exploring new career paths. Whether you're ready to hire now or want to build your future talent pipeline, this is your chance to meet experienced candidates in engineering, IT, project

management, finance, and more.

Click the button below to reserve your free space today and start building your talent pipeline!

[Register today](#)

## Workforce System in the News

[Jobless claims on the rise in Clark County as the labor market cools](#)

- *The Columbian*

[WorkSource to host hiring event in Vancouver](#) - *The Columbian*

[WorkSource plans job fair for July 16 in Vancouver](#) - *The Columbian*

## Partner Events

**Next Workshops** | 3210 NE 52nd St, Vancouver, WA 98663

[Schedule of events at Next](#)

**WorkSource Vancouver** Hiring Event |  
September 17, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. | 204 SE Stonemill Drive, Suite 215, Vancouver, WA 98684

**WorkSource Vancouver** Multilingual Job Fair |  
September 23, 2025 | 1 - 3 p.m. | Partners in Careers 3210 NE 52nd Street Vancouver, WA 98663

**WorkSource Vancouver** Hiring Event | October 15, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. | 204 SE Stonemill Drive, Suite 215, Vancouver, WA 98684

**WorkSource Vancouver** Hiring Event | November 19, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. | 204 SE Stonemill Drive, Suite 215, Vancouver, WA 98684

**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.

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Read our Blogs

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Upcoming Board Meetings

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