



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Workforce Development News

MARCH 2022



Grants Available for Employee Training Leading to Quality Jobs

People are your organization's greatest asset and investing in their training is a powerful demonstration of how much you value them. Today's employees want to work for organizations 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.

WSW prioritizes investments that advance workforce equity, ensuring the public workforce system focuses on equitable support of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian and other people of color and historically-excluded communities, and is inclusive of companies that demonstrate commitment to providing quality jobs.

[Read More](#)



Funding for Job Seeker Services Available

Focus on housing and re-entry partnerships

WSW is seeking employment and job training proposals from organizations that are currently providing services for housing, re-entry or career coaching to historically underserved or excluded populations. Nonprofits and community-based organizations are encouraged to apply.

Our goal is to provide career coaching, skills development and/or job training services to individuals 18 years and older through a network of community-based and other organizations in support of our [Strategic Plan's](#) economic mobility and systems change goals.

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Host a summer intern with the Future Leaders Project



Our community is becoming **more diverse**, which we can see in the demographics of our K-12 students. We want to make sure that **leaders** in our community **are diversifying at the same rate**.

DARCY HOFFMAN
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES, WORKFORCE SW
in The Oregonian

Along with our partners at the [Columbia River Economic Development Council](#) and [Washington State University Vancouver](#), we are excited to announce the launch of year three of the Future Leaders Project (FLP) summer internships! FLP provides paid internships to WSU Vancouver students from historically-excluded communities. The program connects students to Clark County employers while giving them the tools to thrive as they join the workforce.

Hosting an intern can give your business valuable perspective and access to emerging talent, all while helping a student gain integral work experience. We are looking for businesses interested in hosting students for paid summer internships.

[Learn More](#)

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:

Staff Accountant II

Senior Program 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](#)

Benton Waterous promoted to Director of Programs

Benton Waterous has been promoted to Director of Programs for WSW. In his new role, Waterous will provide overall direction and operational management of services and programs, primarily contracted federal- and state-funded programs. In addition, he will oversee program implementation processes, budget, performance, data management and contracted service providers and lead community partnerships and grant and revenue development activities.



Benton Waterous
Director of Programs
Workforce Southwest Washington

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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.

The Quality Jobs council held six meetings through January 2022. Its task was to define the quality jobs criteria around wages, benefits and work environment for the

Southwest Washington-Portland metro area and develop the framework to implement job quality strategies for businesses, workforce boards, local government, service providers, nonprofits, labor and workers. The council gathered best practices and other resources for the report that will be available soon through WSW and its [Columbia-Willamette Workforce Development Council](#) (CWWC) partners.

[Read More](#)

Quality Jobs Highlight



[Marketing EQ builds their talent with web technology internship](#)

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



2022 Strategic Plan Update

WSW's mission is to lead a regional workforce development system where every individual has access to high-quality employment and every business has access to a highly-skilled workforce. During the last two quarters, WSW has made strides toward the achievement of our Strategic Plan's goals:

Business Growth and Recovery

- Quality Jobs Initiative Updates
- Construction Trades and Apprenticeship Career Class

Business Growth and
Recovery Updates

Economic Mobility

- Fourth Plain Forward Navigator
- Expanding System Liaison Program
- Workforce Services to Those Dislocated Due to Opioid Addiction

Economic Mobility
Updates

Systems Change

- Improving access to the workforce system
- Building a Community of Equity Training
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion trainings for service providers

System Change
Updates

Read the 2021-2023
Strategic Plan



Now is the time to invest in local workforce solutions for Washington's economic recovery

As lawmakers in Olympia debate critical measures for Washington's economic recovery, now is the time to invest in local workforce solutions. Workforce Southwest Washington and our peers in the statewide [Washington Workforce Association](#) recommend a [\\$50 million state Workforce Innovation Fund](#) to empower local [solutions](#) with flexible funding. We recommend lawmakers take advantage of the infrastructure that already exists—established funding, a network of providers, community partners, [WorkSource job centers](#), and industry relationships—and build on it to produce better results for workers and businesses, and to maximize scale and impact.

[Read More](#)

Celebrating Women's History Month

In Southwest Washington, women in the workforce face significant wage disparities. Women make an average of \$37,353 per year in a stable job compared to the overall average wage of \$52,849.



At WSW we believe every worker should have access to high-quality employment and advancement opportunities. Through our investments and programs, we hope to create a more equitable workforce for women in Southwest Washington where they have access to training, education and high-paying positions.

To that end, we have partnered with [Oregon Tradeswomen](#) to offer its industry-recognized (and preferred) Trades and Apprenticeship Career Class (TACC) to women in Southwest Washington.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, Women in Construction Week (March 6 - 12) and beyond, WSW will continue to draw attention to the disparities that women and other historically-excluded communities face and disrupt systems to create a more equitable and accessible workforce system for all.

Top Ten Occupations and Annual Salaries for Women in Construction in Southwest Washington

Occupation	Female	Annual Salary
Construction Laborers	115	\$46,300
Carpenters	81	\$56,800
Electricians	72	\$71,500
Painters and Paperhangers	66	\$42,300
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	59	\$78,800
Construction Equipment Operators	44	\$61,400
Construction and Building Inspectors	36	\$69,800
Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	27	\$70,700
Sheet Metal Workers	25	\$62,500
Roofers	20	\$57,500
Highway Maintenance Workers	17	\$55,200

Data from JobsEQ

[Explore Women in Construction Data](#)



Prep Cook Bootcamp

The Prep Cook Bootcamp is a partnership between Workforce Southwest Washington, Russell Brent of Community at Heart Hospitality and local Southwest Washington businesses. For businesses, this training addressed the worker shortage the hospitality industry is facing. The training aimed to help businesses recruit and retain quality workers by making them feel welcome and set up for success and providing ongoing mentorship after placement. Local businesses signed on to interview candidates that completed the training and to provide quality wages to those they hired.

For participants, the training included knife handling, kitchen safety, basic cooking principles, teamwork, food handler permit, ServSafe certification and direct leads to employment.

The training provides a triple win for the community, providing companies with employees, workers with a career with purpose and a community with more people in the workforce.

Prep Cook Bootcamp



The first Prep Cook Bootcamp training was held in November 2021. The second cohort will take place in March 2022.

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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development. WSW is an equal opportunity employer/

program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon

request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Relay 711.