



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Workforce is Economic Infrastructure:

**Supporting Clark County's Businesses,
Workers, and Economic Growth**

February 11, 2026



Who We Are & Our Role in Clark County

- We are a nonprofit workforce organization serving Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties. Since 2002, we have **invested \$142.5 million** to connect residents to family-supporting jobs and help local businesses grow.
- **Build a skilled workforce** that strengthens the local economy.
- **Connect residents to careers** that support living and thriving in Clark County.
- **Align training with industry sectors** critical to long-term growth.



Strategic Focus Areas

1. Job & Business Growth

Advance quality jobs and support business growth across the region

2. Community Connections

Strengthen collaboration among employers, education, and community partners

3. Accessible Workforce Systems

Ensure equitable access to workforce services and opportunities regionwide



Workforce Development = Local Economic Impact

- **Support local businesses** with skilled, job-ready talent
- **Build the workforce** required for capital, infrastructure, and development projects
- **Prepare residents** for in-demand careers that lead to self-sufficiency wages
- **Reduce unemployment** and long-term reliance on public assistance
- **Strengthen the local economy** through business growth and increased tax revenue



Our Approach & Community Return

We...

- **Leverage braided funding** to maximize public investment
- **Align programs** directly with employer and labor market demand
- **Track outcomes** and continuously adjust to improve results

Resulting in...

- Residents **going to work** — or back to work — in stable jobs
- **Less dependency** on public assistance and social services
- Higher family-wage workforce and a more **self-reliant community**
- Local businesses finding **job-ready talent**



Why This Matters Now

- Layoff activity increased beginning June 2025
- Impacts span multiple sectors -- not a single employer or industry
- Workforce systems are absorbing growing demand for services
- *What follows is a snapshot of known activity -- **not the full picture***



Recent Layoff Activity in the Region

Increased layoff activity beginning June 2025

- Numerous known employers across key regional sectors
- Worker impacts identified through:
 - WARN notices
 - Direct employer outreach
 - WorkSource engagement

Sectors & Employers (condensed, visual-friendly):

- Healthcare: Providence, PeaceHealth, ZoomCare, Legacy, Columbia River Mental Health
- Education: Camas School District, Vancouver Public Schools, Battle Ground School District, ESD 112
- Manufacturing / Retail / Other: Intel, Hood Packaging, Western Forest Products, RV Country, Riverside Payments, Amazon
- *Known activity only; additional impacts expected*



Estimated Worker Impact

- 3,050 total workers affected
 - Intel: ~2,400 workers
- Of the remaining ~650 workers:
 - 240 temporary layoffs
 - 100 healthcare workers likely absorbed locally
 - 310 estimated permanent layoffs
- Estimated Washington impact from Intel:
 - 10–20% reside in Washington
 - 240–480 Washington workers potentially impacted

Estimates based on employer information, WARN notices, and labor market analysis.



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Sector Trends: Tech & Healthcare

Technology

- Significant Intel layoffs in July
- Increasing engagement from tech workers at WorkSource Vancouver
- Dislocated roles include:
 - IT operations, software development, analytics, AI, digital design
- Rapid industry change is complicating career pathways and credential guidance

Healthcare

- 7 of 12 known layoffs tied to the healthcare sector
- Regional healthcare job losses ongoing since 2024
- Layoffs concentrated in:
 - Administration, mid-management, and system support roles
- Restructuring expected to continue into 2026 and beyond



Demonstrated Results from Strategic Investment

- Even as layoff activity increases, some strategies are delivering strong results
- One example: **Economic Security for All (EcSA)**
- A proven model with measurable return



Workforce Development Pays

- **\$2,925** average cost per participant
- **5-month** average program duration
- **\$47,840** median wage after completion
(vs. <\$10,000 at enrollment)
- **Return on Investment**
- **\$2.64** returned for every **\$1** invested statewide
- **\$4.25** returned per **\$1** invested in **Southwest Washington**
(second highest in the state)

Based on increased tax revenue and reduced public assistance.



How the County Can Engage

- **Invest** in workforce programs that work
- **Partner** with us on employer and workforce initiatives
- **Consider** workforce planning with development and infrastructure priorities



QUESTIONS



WSW business services and Youth and Adult programs are funded through a USDOL grant. To learn more about funding, follow this QR code.



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