

Talent Drives Prosperity

Improving the Talent Development Pipeline for All of Washington's Businesses and its People 2017 Workforce System Agenda

Career-Connected Learning



Many young people struggle to land jobs and become self-sufficient. Connecting youth with industry provides real world perspective on the workplace and careers, helping young people complete high school, earn postsecondary credentials, and succeed in their careers.

K-12 career and college readiness

- Workforce Board supports expanding and strengthening career guidance and career and technical education (CTE) programs.

CTE funding

- Increased funding would address resource challenges for CTE programs and Skills Centers. Many technical programs come with higher-cost materials, supplies, and operating costs to provide up-to-date curriculum.

Academic and career planning

- Expansion of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges Guided Pathways model, which includes increased guidance aimed at providing a clear path of courses to each student's education and career goals.

Employment and Economy



Everyone should be able to benefit from the economy – businesses and citizens – regardless of their circumstances. Businesses need skilled and ready talent, and individuals need training and support pathways to good jobs.

Career advancement for SNAP/BFET participants

- Workforce Board supports Employment Security Department's request for spending authority to expand career programs for low-income families.

Ex-offender employment

- Expand opportunities for ex-offender employment & navigation services by authorizing federal spending authority to Employment Security Department to combat recidivism.

Sector-based economic development

- Support for efforts at Department of Commerce to enhance rural economic development by focusing on small businesses and underserved communities.

Postsecondary Financial Aid



To prosper in today's economy, workers need more than a high school diploma. Financial barriers to postsecondary education and training leaves many people behind. Financial support helps people facing barriers to employment get the education they need to succeed.

Expand access to State Need Grant

- Available funds have limited the number of students who can be served. Currently, 23,000 eligible students are not receiving this state financial aid. Funding in the Governor's budget would reduce this number by 60 percent.

Opportunity Scholarship expansion to mid-level education programs

- This public-private match scholarship provides financial aid and support services for students seeking high-demand STEM degrees. The scholarship has only been available for students seeking four-year degrees. The Workforce Board supports expanding the scholarship to students in associate degree and certificate programs.

Request that *Talent and Prosperity for All* be endorsed as the state's strategic workforce plan.

The Workforce Board requests the Legislature approve this plan through joint concurrent resolution.

Read more at: www.wtb.wa.gov/WAWorkforcePlan.asp

