



WASHINGTON STATE
WORKFORCE TRAINING
AND EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD

Partnering for Success: The High Skills-High Wages Strategic Fund

WEDA Fall Conference
Leavenworth, Washington
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Presented by Mike Brennan
& Carolyn McKinnon



Workforce & Economic Development –Partnering for Success

- Who and what is the Workforce Board?
- How does the Cluster movement look from a workforce lens?
- The Strategic Fund – what is it and how can you get in on the action?



Who and what is Washington's Workforce Board?

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (**Workforce Board**):

- Is governor-appointed body representing a partnership of *12 members from business, labor, and government*
- Advises the Governor on workforce development policy, ensures that the state's workforce preparation services and programs work together, and evaluates performance
- Advocates for the nonbaccalaureate training and education needs of the workers who account for about 75 percent of Washington state's workforce



Clusters – The National Focus

- U.S. Senate “SECTORS” bill
 - 110th Congress, 2nd Session **S.3368**
- U.S. Department of Labor
 - WIRED – Pacific Mountain WDA and SW WA/Portland
- National Governors Association
 - Cluster Learning Network
- National Network of Sector Partners
 - Sector Initiative
- Aspen Institute
 - Sector Skills Academy



Clusters – Washington's Focus

- The Next Washington
 - The Governor's Strategic Plan for Economic Development
- CTED's Strategic Plan
 - ADO contracts, Cluster Grants, IPZ Authority
- State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
 - Centers of Excellence, Cluster Specific Studies
- Workforce Board
 - Skills for the Next Washington, High Skills High Wages, Cluster Academies, Cluster Analysis, Skills Bill



Inter-state Competition – We're in the game to position Washington's regional clusters for success!

- Oregon
- Arizona
- California
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota
- Montana
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Texas
- Wisconsin
- Washington...



The Strategic Fund – what is it and how can you get in on the action?

- The Goal –
 - To build on the state's strategy that focuses on regional clusters, ensuring that clusters have the skilled workers needed to continue growing
- The Grant –
 - The Workforce Board will issue approximately \$850,000 in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds for contracts that will end on June 30, 2010
 - Grants are expected to range from \$100,000 - \$200,000.



High Skills High Wages Strategic Fund, continued

- Who can apply?
 - Joint application by a Workforce Development Council (as convener and fiscal agent) and Associate Development Organizations



HSHW Strategic Fund

Partners should include:

- Business
- Chambers of commerce
- Economic development organizations, including ports
- Organized labor
- WorkSource centers
- Employment Security regional labor economists
- K-12 system
- Cities and counties
- Community and technical colleges



HSHW Strategic Fund

Partners should include:

- Centers of Excellence (where they exist for the target industry/core of cluster, not necessarily located in the region identified in the grant)
- Private career colleges if they provide training within the region for the targeted cluster
- Joint apprenticeship and training committees if they provide training within the region for the targeted cluster; and
- Community based organizations



Funding Priorities – Planning

- Advance the competitive position of regionally targeted industries
- Long range planning for workforce training and development
- Identifying and promoting career pathways; and
- Narrowing cluster-specific skill gaps



Funding Priorities – Implementation

- Increase cluster-specific worker training and employment opportunities for low-income populations
- Fill gaps in near-term worker training needs
- Create clear pathways for low-income populations to access cluster specific employment opportunities and advancement



Funding Priorities

- Regional coverage
- Cluster focused
- Forward looking and transformative
- Closing skill gaps
- Focus on low-income populations
- Sustainable
- Collaborative and coordinated
- Organizational transformation
- Replicable
- Measurable



Application Time Line

- RFP release: October 28, 2008
- Bidders conferences: Early November, 2008
- Proposals are due on December 9, 2008
- Funding hits the street January 2009



Questions & Contacts

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