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

WEDA Fall Conference
Leavenworth, Washington
October 8, 2008

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

- Carolyn McKinnon – 360.753.5661
  CMcKinnon@wtb.wa.gov

- Mike Brennan – 360.586.8683
  MBrennan@wtb.wa.gov

- Website - www.wtb.wa.gov