



# Retooling Washington's Workforce

## Getting the economy back on track

The state's workforce system partners came together in a series of intense meetings during 2010 to identify ways to make a difference quickly (within 12 months) in the economic well-being of employers and unemployed workers. Driven by the immediacy of over 300,000 unemployed Washington workers and a slow recovery, hundreds of local and state workforce professionals and businesses participated in this fast-track process. Three projects emerged:

**1) Coordinated outreach to Unemployment Insurance (UI) exhaustees** —Communicate information and streamline employment and training assistance to those whose UI benefits are ending, a population that continues to grow. This effort includes creating a detailed demographic analysis of who is losing benefits, conducting a market analysis of workers' skills and work history and developing services to help those with dwindling resources find housing, food assistance, and other services, while continuing to look for work. Contact: Amy Leneker at [aleneker@esd.wa.gov](mailto:aleneker@esd.wa.gov)

**2) On-the-Job and Direct Connect Training**—This statewide effort aims to improve and expand On-the-Job Training (OJT) and Direct Connect Training options that increase business output and job creation through subsidized training. By helping employers add needed positions and create rigorous training programs, OJT helps people get back to work, while teaching job skills needed by employers. State level contact is Bryan Wilson at [bwilson@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:bwilson@wtb.wa.gov).

**3) Coordinated employer outreach combined with improved job referral/skills matching** — This project seeks to help Washington's employers get the skilled workers they need, while getting more unemployed workers back to work. Local partnerships between multiple government programs are leading to better coordination of business outreach activities with the intent of reaching out to support employers. Also, the WorkSource system is taking active measures to improve the quality of job referrals and skills matching. State level contact is Bryan Wilson at [bwilson@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:bwilson@wtb.wa.gov).

Follow progress on this initiative at:  
<http://www.wtb.wa.gov/retoolingwashington.asp>

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