

## Action Item: Common Definitions

**Date:** April 22, 2015

**Purpose:** A shared set of definitions sets the foundation for coordinating workforce and economic development around sector strategies.

**Background:** In 2007, a team representing 10+ state agencies and educational institutions developed working definitions for key concepts related to coordinating workforce and economic development around key sectors or cluster. These definitions were accepted into shared use by a number of agencies at that time, and can be found in various chapters of Washington state statute.

**Sector:** a group of industries with similar business processes, products or services like construction or health services; formerly categorized by the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system, now categorized by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

**Industry Cluster:** A geographic concentration of interdependent competitive firms that do business with each other, including firms that sell inside and outside of the geographic region as well as support firms that supply new materials, components, and business services. (RCW 43.330.090)

**Targeted Industries or Clusters:** Industries and industry clusters that are identified based on a strategic economic development consideration or other public concerns.

**High Employer Demand Program of Study:** Undergraduate or graduate certificate or degree program in which the number of students prepared for employment per year (from in-state institutions) is less than the number of projected job openings per year in that field—statewide, or in a sub-state region.

**High-Demand Occupation:** An occupation with a substantial number of current or projected employment opportunities.

**High Student Demand Program of Study:** Undergraduate or graduate certificate or degree program in which student demand exceeds program capacity.

**Recommended Action:** The Sectors Strategies Taskforce recommends the adoption of these common definitions to the Local Governance and Sector Strategies Sub-Committee of the WIOA Steering Committee.