

# Workforce Board seeks public input on state workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All

Plan supports good jobs for workers, skilled labor for employers

## For Immediate Release

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**OLYMPIA** — The Workforce Board seeks community input on Washington's next strategic workforce plan, <u>Talent and Prosperity for All</u> (TAP).

This four-year strategy will guide the state's workforce investments from 2024-28. The goal is to help employers, workers and communities succeed by building a strong workforce.

The plan guides what kind of employment, education, training and related services will be supported in the state's publicly funded workforce system. This system manages about \$1.3 billion in state and federal funds to train, educate and support nearly 480,000 workers and students, <u>a recent report shows</u>.

The Workforce Board seeks broad public input from job seekers, workers, business and labor organizations, community advocates and others.

## Comments can be sent to <u>tap.plan@wtb.wa.gov</u>.

Workforce needs vary by region and industry. Community members and stakeholders are encouraged to answer the following questions as the plan is developed:

- How can the workforce system better serve employers?
- How can the workforce system better serve workers and job seekers?
- How can the workforce system better help people with barriers to employment?
- What industries or areas should the workforce system prioritize?

• How should we measure success to determine if investments are having an impact?

"Our goal is to develop an outstanding workforce plan with robust input from all Washington communities," Workforce Board Executive Director Eleni Papadakis said. "A strong workforce is critical to the overall success of our state economy and quality of life."

The plan includes three guiding principles:

- Close economic disparities for marginalized populations.
- Comprehensive support for individuals with barriers to employment.
- Systemwide performance metrics and accountability.

The plan is also focused on five strategic priorities:

- Integrate systems services, data and accountability.
- Support business development and competitiveness.
- Improve opportunities for young people.
- Explore credential reform to improve equity.
- Develop a job quality framework to guide investments in business services.

The Workforce Board plans to host community forums to seek additional feedback later this fall. These forums will be announced at a future date.

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## About the Workforce Board:

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board is a partnership of business, labor and government dedicated to helping Washington residents succeed in family-wage jobs, while meeting employer needs for skilled workers.

*The Board's vision is that every Washington community is thriving, inclusive and economically resilient. Learn more at <u>https://wtb.wa.gov/</u>.*