

Workforce Board Statutory Operations

Fulfilling our Commitment to Research and Evaluation, Industry Partnerships, and CTE Excellence

Our state faces a watershed moment following the Great Recession and the pandemic. A skilled workforce is critical to Washington's economy and prosperity. The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board), established by statute (Wash. Rev. Code § 28C.18), is the unifying force behind our state's workforce development and training system, mandated to plan, monitor, evaluate, and advise on the coordination of these efforts and address the system's fragmentation.

Optimizing Resources for Greatest Impact

The Workforce Board seeks essential maintenance funding to fully carry out our statutory responsibilities. This funding is not about new programs or projects; it's about fulfilling existing commitments under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), and RCW 28C.18.

- **Data-Driven Initiatives:** A dedicated fund for systemic, cross-agency research and evaluation, driving transformative research and pilot projects that directly benefit diverse target populations. Increased staff support, paired with strategic contract funding, will enhance our analytical capabilities, and yield actionable insights for policy and program development.
- **Industry & Economic Development Alignment:** The reinstatement of the Economic and Business Development (EBD) Manager will strengthen industry connections, fostering workforce initiatives responsive to the rapid market changes and ensuring employers have access to skilled labor and industry-specific training.
- **Perkins Career & Technical Education (CTE) Program Administration:** To secure the maximum federal Perkins CTE administrative funding, we propose a dedicated state fund match of \$484,352, vital for enhancing existing program oversight, ensuring legal compliance, and offering robust technical assistance, thereby securing the excellence and expansion of CTE opportunities across Washington.

Impact Highlights

- Data-driven insights leading to actionable workforce strategies and initiatives.
- Enhanced industry partnerships to ensure training aligns with real-world job demands.
- Sufficient state administrative funding to meet the federal match from the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.

Project Costs

- Total Investment: \$1.8M a year, with an ongoing annual commitment for maintenance.
- Research & Evaluation: \$1.115 million for staffing and contracted research services, ensuring data-driven workforce development.
- Economic & Business Development: \$181,000 for an EBD Manager to align workforce programs with industry needs.
- Perkins CTE Administration: \$484,000 state fund match to fully leverage federal funds and enhance CTE program oversight and development.

Complying with state and federal mandates

The Workforce Board seeks adequate maintenance level resources to meet ongoing state and federal mandates related to workforce development.



Contact: Nova Gattman,
Deputy Executive Director
(360) 709-4600
nova.gattman@wtb.wa.gov