



Public comment period open for state workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All

Workforce Board seeks employer, worker, community feedback

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OLYMPIA — The Workforce Board seeks broad public input on Washington’s next workforce plan, [Talent and Prosperity for All](#).

The [draft plan is located here](#). Public comment will be open from Jan. 22-March 15, 2024.

Talent and Prosperity for All is the state’s four-year workforce development strategy from 2024-28. This strategy guides what kind of employment, education, training and related services will be supported in the state’s publicly funded workforce development system. [This system](#) includes about \$1.3 billion in state and federal funds to train and support nearly 480,000 workers and students.

The current plan is being developed as Washington faces an ongoing labor shortage in key industries. And while Washington’s overall economy is strong, [significant disparities exist](#) among different populations and regions.

Comments can be sent to tap.plan@wtb.wa.gov.

“Washington’s workforce has gone through major changes in recent years,” Executive Director Eleni Papadakis said. “Many businesses have a hard time hiring skilled workers, and many workers struggle to find living wage jobs. It’s critical that we develop a more flexible and responsive workforce development system to meet these challenges. Strong public input will help create a better plan.”

The plan includes three guiding principles:

- Close economic disparities for marginalized populations.
- Provide comprehensive support for individuals with barriers to employment.
- Enhance systemwide performance metrics and accountability.

The plan is also focused on five strategic priorities:

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

As the state's Career and Technical Education (CTE) administrator, the Workforce Board in coordination with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, integrated the [federal Carl D. Perkins](#) plan into the TAP plan, guiding secondary and postsecondary CTE programs for the next four years. TAP also includes the operating plans of nine other programs administered by multiple state agencies.

The plan will be finalized later this spring and sent to the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor for approval.

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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 <https://wtb.wa.gov/>.