



Workforce Board highlights \$1.4 billion public investment in workforce training and education

State's largest workforce programs serve over 531,000 workers, employers

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OLYMPIA — A [new report](#) highlights how Washington's workforce development system helps job seekers find training and employers connect with skilled workers.

The [2024 Matrix poster](#) includes 19 workforce programs that served more than 531,000 people in the 2021-22 fiscal year. These programs were funded by more than \$1.46 billion in state and federal investments.

Examples include registered apprenticeships, career and technical education, support for veterans and customized training for businesses, among others. These programs help people find jobs, improve skills and access advanced training.

"This report shows that workforce development is a good investment for Washington," Workforce Board Executive Director Eleni Papadakis said. "Apprenticeship programs, for example, show a 10-year economic impact of \$4.9 billion and taxpayer return on investment of \$7.80 to \$1."

The report covers the 2022 fiscal year since data is not collected until a year after people leave a workforce program to best evaluate the impact. The report does not include all workforce investments statewide.

The publication is an annual summary produced by the Workforce Board's Research and Evaluation team. The Board advises the Governor and Legislature on workforce development

policy, ensures the state's workforce services and programs work together, and evaluates the performance of Washington's key workforce programs.

This year's Matrix includes a few changes. For the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, four programs from previous reports were combined into one column. The four programs include WorkFirst Education and Training Services, Community Jobs-Career Jump, Community Works and Employment Services.

This year's Matrix also includes two new programs, including the Jobs for Veterans State Grants Program and the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments Program.

These changes reflect the Workforce Board's commitment to work closely with partners, on behalf of all Washingtonians, to provide an accurate analysis of Washington's workforce system.

Other report highlights include:

- The economic impact of programs, from apprenticeships to support for dislocated workers and individuals with disabilities.
- \$1.22 billion in state training funds, including significant investments in career and technical education (CTE) at the high school and college level.
- \$239 million in federal funds, including allocations from the federal [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#) and the [Wagner-Peyser Act](#).
- What organizations delivered the services, including [WorkSource Centers](#), community and technical colleges, and others.
- The number of Washington residents served by each program.
- The percentage of program participants who got jobs.
- How much participants earned after completing a workforce program.

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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/>.