

WSLC Workforce Development News

Because A Skilled *and* Equitable Workforce Works for **Everyone**

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The WSLC is dedicated to advocating for Washington's working families.

From initial entry, to career transition, and when facing job loss, our Workforce Development Department seeks to ensure universal access to:

- Portable skills and a voice in career development
- Continuity for those navigating the workforce system
- An economy that works for both workers and businesses

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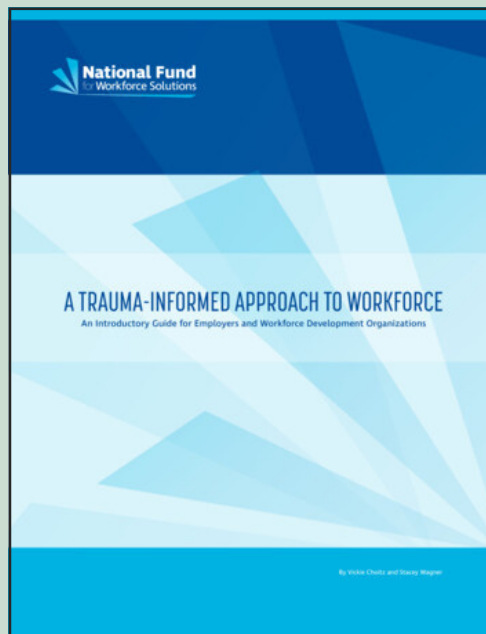
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Applications Open For New Apprenticeship Funding Opportunities

The Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) announced an opportunity for funds that support registered apprenticeships. More than \$8 million in grants and project funds are available. The intent of these funds is to expand capacity for state-registered apprenticeship programs, provide equipment upgrades, and ensure apprentices have access to a broad suite of student support services. Funding opportunities include: Technology and Remote Learning (\$2.37 million); Upgrading Equipment (\$3.8 million); Driver Education Course Voucher for Minors (\$12,000); Wrap-Around Support Services (\$1.9 million). For more details [visit this link](#).

The National Fund for Workforce Solutions has published a guide, co-authored by Stacey Wagner and Vickie Choitz of Corporation Skilled Workforce (CSW), for workforce development professionals to understand more about toxic stress and trauma, the effects on the brain, how employers and workforce development professionals can help to address and manage toxic stress and trauma for their workers, and examples from a variety of forward-thinking companies and organizations. [Here is the guide](#). Understanding toxic stress and trauma is new to employers and the workforce development field, so the guide also notes what additional resources, tools, and support would be helpful to deepen our understanding and improve practices, policies, and organizational cultures.



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We Want You To Serve on Community and Technical College Advisory Committees

Do you want to put your “labor expertise” to work at the Community/ Technical College near you? We need your help to improve professional/ technical training programs for the benefit of our future workforce.

Currently, your knowledge and expertise is needed at Peninsula College, Edmonds College, Green River College, Renton Technical College, Cascadia College, Everett College and Lake Washington Institute of Technology. **If you or someone within your labor union would like more information and/or want to volunteer your time, please contact Kairie Pierce, Lead Workforce Development Director at kpierce@wslc.org or (360) 791-1583.**

The Washington Economic Development Association Conference

If you sit on an Economic Development Council or have an interest in the state’s economic development efforts, you may be interested in attending the Washington Economic Development Association Conference. The Washington Economic Development Association is holding its summer conference Aug. 9-11 in Bellingham with the theme: Resilience: Building a More Sustainable Economy for All. For more information including a preliminary agenda [visit this link](#).

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Job Opening: Join the Machinists! Director of Regional Operations - Eastern WA

The Machinists Institute is hiring a Director of Regional Operations for their Eastern Washington Market who will lead, promote, and implement effective workforce development initiatives with a focus on equity and inclusion across the industries they serve. The Director of Regional Operations – Eastern WA will be based in Spokane, WA. [Apply Here.](#)



Rapid Response Coordinators Meet in Yakima with a DEAI Focus

The WSLC Workforce Development Department, Employment Security Department and Washington Workforce Association make up the Statewide Rapid Response Team. The tri-party collaboration provides an opportunity to share information across workforce development areas about Rapid Response activity, develop best practices and provide additional support to local Rapid Response teams and workforce development board leaders.

In June, the Statewide Rapid Response Team coordinated the first in-person meeting of Rapid Response Coordinators from across the state since before the pandemic. Over twenty coordinators and partners met at the Yakima WorkSource for almost a full day. The focus was on sharing work underway, identifying gaps and developing strategies to reduce barriers to Rapid Response and engage more workers who need support. The conversation was facilitated with a Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion framework and there was enthusiasm to move this work forward across the state. Rapid Response Coordinators meet quarterly and intend to meet in-person annually.

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Rapid Response partners at a June 22nd meeting in Yakima.

About Rapid Response

Rapid Response is a service funded by the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Dislocated Worker program. It allows a system of workforce partners to respond quickly to layoffs and closures, bringing information about Unemployment Insurance, and re-employment, education and other resources to workers and companies to mitigate the impact of job-loss. Washington's Rapid Response policy can be found [here](#).

Trade Act Petitions

Trade Adjustment Assistance Enters Sunset Provisions

TAA Expiration- **The Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) program entered its sunset provision on July 1, 2022.** Until Congress acts to reauthorize the program, the USDOL may not issue new determinations or process new TAA petitions, however there are funds to carry out worker training plans that already exist. The WSLC Workforce Development department is actively tracking TAA reauthorization and the changes occurring under the sunset provisions.

Workers receiving TAA benefits should be unaffected by the TAA sunset provision. Workers who were certified and separated from their job on or before June 30, 2022, may still be eligible for benefits and services.

It is crucial for workers who may be eligible to reach out and file for their potential TAA benefits. Workers should contact their nearest [WorkSource](#) and ask for someone from the TAA unit.

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Workers can always reach out to their **regional WSLC Workforce Development Director** for guidance. Even with the sunset provision we ask that you reach out to your regional director as soon as you hear of a layoff, or possible layoff, in your area.

Due to Congress failing to act before the sunset provisions, we all must wait for Congress to approve the TAA program's reauthorization. According to an online report by Phil McCausland, an NBC News reporter, "a study by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in 2018 found that after ten years, TAA-trained workers earned about \$50,000 more than those who did not participate in the program because of higher incomes and greater labor force participation" (**McCausland, 2022**). This data point speaks to the importance of how the TAA program for workers aids them in finding the next quality job or having access to economic mobility.

Company or Worker Group and Location	Status
TA – W – 98,303 Norgren GT Development LLC (Auburn), filed 05.18.2022.	Certified 06.17.2022
TA – W – 98,197 Zones LLC (Auburn), filed 02.09.2022.	Denied 04.01.2022
TA – W – 98,157 Bruker Handheld (Kennewick), filed 12.21.2021.	Certified 05.12.2022
TA – W – 98,056 Prototron circuits Inc. (Redmond), filed 09.01.2021.	Denied 06.09.2022

Know a worker impacted by a trade petition? Next steps should be:

1. Sign up for a TAA Orientation, this can be done by contacting your local WorkSource
2. Contact your local college system and ask to speak with the Worker Retraining Program Coordinator. They will help you come up with a training plan that could lead to suitable work.

Keep in mind Trade Act programs do have a list of criteria. Remember every course of action when using TAA must be approved by your TAA case manager!

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WSLC Workforce Development Department staff

You can reach the Workforce Development Department at 360-570-5161. Or contact staff directly:

Kairie Pierce — Lead Workforce Development Director

360-570-5167 / kpierce@wslc.org

Emmanuel Flores — Workforce Development Director

360.561.4657 / eflores@wslc.org

Chelsea Mason-Placek — Workforce Development Director

253.973.3324 / cmasonplacek@wslc.org

Rachel McAloon — Workforce Development Director

360.515.1335 / rmcaloon@wslc.org

Laurel Poplack — Workforce Development and Legislative Admin Assistant

360-553-5525 / lpoplack@wslc.org



Learn more and donate to
The Foundation for Working Families [HERE](#).