



Washington State Work Start

Washington State Dept. of Commerce in partnership with the state's Workforce Development Councils and Washington Employment Security Department

What is Washington Work Start?

Washington Work Start is a business driven workforce training program designed to provide new and existing employers with flexible customized training in direct alignment with the state's business recruitment and expansion efforts.

Work Start targets key sectors including: aerospace, clean technology, advanced materials, advanced manufacturing, maritime, forest products, agribusiness, life sciences, information, communications and technology, and locally targeted industries.

Work Start flexible training grants are used to:

- Attract new business to Washington;
- Support existing businesses as they make significant expansions through new business activity; and
- Increase the skills of citizens through training, certifications, and employment in targeted industries.

Work Start teams meet with each company to discuss unique training needs. Work Start pays for training and local WorkSource Centers add traditional workforce development services (position posting, screening, assessment, testing, interviewing and other pre-employment activities) at little or no cost to the company. Work Start Teams carefully review available training programs to assure the program delivers the best training in the most efficient manner.

How does it work?

Work Start is an allocation of the Governor's Strategic Reserve Fund (SRF) with uses outlined in RCW 43.330.250. Expenditures are expected to be made to:

- Prevent closure of a business or facility;
- Prevent relocation of a Washington-based business or facility to a location outside the state;
- Enable significant expansion of businesses in Washington rather than alternative locations; or
- Recruit a business or facility to the state or other lawfully approved activity.

Work Start allocations coordinate with state and local business recruitment and retention efforts, other SRF commitments, loan programs, and Job Skills and Workforce Investment Act.

Washington State Department of Commerce manages the requests and anticipates review and approval in 30 days or less.

Individual company funding levels depend on the complexity of training and number of trainees. The state's 12 Workforce Development Councils and the Employment Security Department are collaborative partners in Work Start. The program ends June 30, 2015.

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Work Start Results

Work Start has helped create 364 new jobs in Washington at the following companies:

- Armstrong Marine (Clallam County)
- UniEnergy (Snohomish County)
- Sonata Software (King County)
- Jorgenson Steel (King County)
- Center For Advanced Manufacturing Puget Sound (CAMPS) Consortium (King County)
- SGL (Grant County)
- Omak Wood Products (Okanogan County)
- Hexcel (King County)

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