



WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
OF SEATTLE — KING COUNTY
Our Workforce, Our Future



Who We Are

The WDC: A nonprofit workforce “think tank” and grant-making organization.



Our dual mission: A strong economy and a path to self-sufficiency for everyone.

- **Impact: up to 120,000 jobseekers served each year**
- **One of the top 4 workforce boards in the nation**

The WDC of Seattle-King County:

- Federally designated Workforce Investment Board (WIB) — one of 575 across the U.S.
- Overseeing King County—with almost a third of the state's workforce



Workforce Policy: Health

Successful Model: Sector Panels

- Healthcare Sector Panels in 2002 and 2013 to address critical worker shortages
 - Action-oriented meetings focused on listening to employer needs in workforce development
 - Assessing skills and pipeline needs
 - Meeting the demands of industry!



Healthcare Sector Panel Outcomes

- Benefits for jobseekers and workers:
 - Career counseling for current hospital workers.
 - Connected at-risk high school students to CNA training.
 - Health Careers for All
- Benefits for employers:
 - Demand for skilled staff met.
 - New career pathways reduced employer turnover costs.
- Example: Patient Navigator



Concluding Thoughts

- State and local workforce boards should be sector-driven.
- It's important to have industry at the table.
- It takes time! This has taken us over a decade.

Questions?

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