

July 1 brought the **official launch of One Workforce** in the PacMtn region. The program will initially focus on a co-enrollment strategy with WorkSource system partners. WIOA legislations encourages co-enrollment strategies that reduce duplicative services and leverages other federal programs, such as Pell Grants, to maximize the impact of federal investments. Conversations are well underway with the region's postsecondary providers to bring support resources to priority populations pursuing credentials in [priority sector](#) occupations. Postsecondary co-enrollments are expected to begin in late fall and focus on students that start their journey with basic education and English proficiency barriers that exit to employment or continue towards a credential. Vocational Rehabilitation engagement is in early stages should begin to accelerate in the second quarter of PY22.

The **Workforce Impact Fund (WIF)**, a Washington Workforce Association (WWA) effort to bring significant state resources to local boards, is gaining traction. The \$50 million dollar program (annual) is seeking Workforce Training and Education Coordination Board Support at a special meeting on September 8th, 2022. If successful, a decision package for the upcoming budget session will be forwarded to the Governor for consideration in late September. Employment Security Department (ESD) is expected to be state agency to administer the WIF. If funded, Local Workforce Develop Boards, such as PacMtn, will have collectively develop a plan to invest the funds giving key stakeholders in the region input on how the state's tax dollars would be spent.

William Westmoreland attended a **Lacey MakerSpace** event in early July celebrating news of their equipment investment that is expected later this year. The equipment will expand the impact of the facility to support entrepreneurs and local employers. The facility will focus on skill development and product prototyping, which is much needed in the region. Checkout their [website](#) for more information.

PacMtn is considering a relocation beginning January of 2023. As work styles changes and as PacMtn moves away from direct service delivery, our space needs have changed significantly. The current space is over 9,000 square feet and is only half occupied. In 2020, ESD and PacMtn renewed the sublease agreement for the 1570 Irving street property and at that time PacMtn requested an exit option. That option can be leveraged starting January 2023, which PacMtn has formerly notified ESD of the intent to exit. Many options are being considered, including relocating to a small space on the 2nd floor. Plans will be formalized in late September.

Prepare for PacMtn’s Fall Retreat is well underway. The event will bring the full board and elected official’s consortium together to discuss the impacts of One Workforce and Performance targets for the key programs in the WorkSource region, specifically Title 1b adults, dislocated worker, youth, basic education, and vocational rehabilitation. The agenda will also include a discussion regarding the Board’s understanding of its role in the public workforce system and key deliverables as they relate to the WIOA legislation. This in-person event is September 22, 2022 and will be facilitated by Dough Mah of Doug Mah & Associates at the South Puget Sound Community College Campus in Lacey. More details to follow.

Stories of Impact and Meaning

- We received a letter from a WEX employer who has decided to retain a WEX participant. The employer wrote, “Her customer service skills, working with riders, and professionalism working with bus operators on the phone and dispatch radio are excellent. Her attention to detail is far above our expectations. She is a delight to have in the office. She arrives early and is ready to work. Her dedication and commitment are admirable, and we look forward to a long-term work relationship. We plan to utilize the youth WEX program in the future.”
- A WEX participant is starting a new job at Denny’s after releasing from Green Hill two weeks ago. As a team, we did a good job getting him connected to different programs, including PacMtn’s CTAP program and another reentry support program. We rallied around this youth to provide wrap-around services as he transitioned back into his community.