

- In late January, PacMtn hosted the Washington Workforce Association’s (WWA) annual Hill Climb and quarterly board meeting. This year's legislative focus is on HB2230 – Promoting Economic Inclusion by Establishing the Economic Security for All (EcSA) program. The bill is currently out of committee and awaits review by the House Appropriations Committee (as of 2/5/2024). HB2230 aims to formalize the highly successful EcSA program and streamline its funding model, which currently relies on a series of budget provisos. WWA collaborated with the Association of Washington Business (AWB), enabling both organizations to present a unified legislative agenda centered on crucial workforce development issues. Local Workforce Development boards were strongly represented, with nearly 40 participants including staff, key partners, and employers, joining forces with AWB's contingent, totaling nearly 100 individuals who engaged with nearly all representatives. The event was deemed a success, with legislators expressing strong support for codifying the bill.
- PacMtn CEO, William Westmoreland and Chief Program Officer, Dan Cooling attended the **2024 ALICE Summit in New Orleans, LA**. They joined a delegation from Washington and had the chance to explore United for ALICE's latest Economic Viability Dashboard and promising strategies for supporting ALICE households. The event also provided an excellent platform for networking with United Way organizations from across Washington State. Stay tuned for further updates as PacMtn delves deeper into understanding this expanding population.
- In early December, PacMtn received notification from Thurston County that we were not chosen for the second round of the **Treatment Sales Tax** program. Consequently, PacMtn implemented significant adjustments to the Pathways Home program, which offers transition services pre and post-release at both the Thurston and Lewis County detention centers. As part of the revised plan, PacMtn terminated the subcontractor for programming and transitioned to an in-house staffing model. This restructuring enabled PacMtn to overhaul the budget, reducing program costs while enhancing integration with PacMtn's PREP program, which serves the target population in Thurston County.

Previously, PacMtn subcontracted case management in Lewis County through the Employment Security Department (ESD). By realigning strategies, the Pathways

program now capitalizes on ESD's established work and relationships within the Lewis facility. The Pathways program is slated to run through the end of the calendar year and may extend into the first quarter of 2025, providing additional time to achieve program outcomes.

- As the **Economic Security for All (EcSA)** program evolves, local workforce boards face persistent challenges regarding ESD oversight. Per contract requirements, LWDBs must meet specific targets (enrollments, training, and employment at a self-sufficient wage) and corresponding expenditures. For the second time, PacMtn's contractor has successfully achieved key targets but fell short on spending targets. Consequently, PacMtn is obligated to return \$88K to ESD for redistribution to other LWDBs capable of utilizing the funds.

A significant factor contributing to this shortfall is PacMtn's program design, which relies on multiple resources to achieve outcomes. While this approach lowers program costs, ESD deems it deficient, resulting in reduced funding. Despite ongoing discussions between PacMtn and the WWA regarding improvements to the funding model, there has been no progress in persuading ESD to adopt a new approach. In the upcoming weeks, WWA will lead further discussions in the hopes of reaching a compromise.

The **PacMtn Board Meeting & Winter Retreat** is swiftly approaching, featuring a packed agenda with crucial topics. The event is scheduled for February 22 at Talking Cedar from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. During the board meeting, members will have the opportunity to provide input and take action on the final Local Plan and the corresponding integrated service delivery system agreement – the One Workforce System MOU & IFA. Throughout the retreat, members will actively participate in discussions on board committee work, the ALICE population, and other stakeholder engagements related to the new 4-year and MOU. The current Local Plan draft and System MOU can be found on [PacMtn's website](#)



# CEO Report

February 2024

## Stories of Hope and Impact

Shared from our partners at Equus:

“Participant enrolled in DW/Opioid was a military officer transitioning into civilian life. He was injured while serving his country and was honorably discharged. He attended the A&P training paid for by the WIOA program and successfully completed the training. He has persevered and has landed an incredible opportunity by obtaining full time employment with New World Aviation, through Aerotech as a contractor, making \$35.00 per hour as an Aircraft Tech. He is still employed as of this day.”