

- In early February, PacMtn joined more than 70 workforce and business leaders from across the state for a strong showing at Capitol Hill in Olympia, advocating for continued investment in Economic Security for All (EcSA) and the Community Reinvestment Program (CRP). Co-sponsored by the Association of Washington Business (AWB) and the Washington Workforce Association (WWA), the hill climb was a successful day of sharing the measurable impact these programs have had in our communities. While the Governor’s preliminary budget did not include CRP funding, both the Senate and House budgets later restored a portion it—clear evidence that our message was heard. We’ll continue monitoring developments as final budget negotiations unfold later this spring.
- In February, PacMtn Board and Consortium members gathered at the Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel for our Spring Retreat, themed “Back to the Basics” with a focus on rebooting our regional One-Stop system. The retreat provided an important opportunity to revisit WIOA board member roles and responsibilities, reaffirm our shared mission, and deepen our understanding of the system’s foundational structure. Highlights included an informative presentation from Joe Vansyckle, ESD Regional Director and PacMtn Board member, and Kendall King, ESD Operations Manager for the Southwest Coastal Region, who shared insights on ESD’s program cluster and service strategy. Attendees also had the chance to tour the casino and discuss its workforce needs. The retreat was a productive and energizing event that set a strong foundation as we prepare for Program Year 2025.
- This spring, PacMtn partnered with Workforce Central and national workforce provider America Works to submit a collaborative application for the Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program (HVRP). America Works, which operates several successful HVRP initiatives across the country, identified critical gaps in veteran services in both Tacoma and Thurston Counties. Recognizing a shared commitment to supporting veterans, our three organizations determined that a joint application would create the most competitive proposal and offer the best opportunity to align resources and expertise. If awarded, this project will strengthen outreach and reintegration efforts for homeless veterans in our communities. Awards are expected to be announced in the fall.
- PacMtn was proud to sponsor the Thurston County United for ALICE Conference, an event that convened regional leaders and partners to deepen understanding of the ALICE population—households that are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. The conference focused on strategies to better support these working individuals and families who struggle to make ends meet despite being employed.

Key sessions addressed pressing issues such as childcare access, housing stability, and comprehensive support strategies. PacMtn’s sponsorship reflects our commitment to aligning workforce investments with the needs of this critical—and often overlooked—segment of our communities.

- PacMtn is excited to partner with Washington State Department of Commerce to host a regional Family-Friendly Workplaces Employer Cohort in Spring 2025, focused on supporting businesses in Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties. This initiative will convene 8-12 local employers to explore how access to childcare impacts both their operations and workforce stability. Over the course of a 5-6 week program, participating employers will engage in structured sessions—both virtual and in-person—as well as receive expert consultations aimed at identifying practical solutions and workplace policies that support working families. PacMtn will serve as the local host, co-leading the cohort with Commerce and helping ensure the program reflects regional needs. This collaboration offers a timely opportunity to drive meaningful conversations and build employer-informed strategies that improve childcare access and workforce retention in our communities.
- PacMtn recently completed its annual financial audit conducted by the Washington State Auditor’s Office, and we are pleased to report a clean audit with no findings. The final report will be shared at the April Board meeting. Additionally, our monitoring review with the Employment Security Department (ESD) was also completed, identifying only minor items to address with no findings or disallowed costs (minimal if any). While the final ESD report is still pending, we anticipate no issues. These outcomes reflect the strength of our internal controls and our commitment to sound fiscal stewardship.
- In late March, CEO William Westmoreland and Commissioner Grant represented PacMtn at the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum in Washington, D.C. The forum centered on key national workforce topics, including the potential reauthorization of WIOA through Representative Virginia Foxx’s *“A Stronger Workforce for America Act.”* While discussion was robust, it appears the reauthorization effort has stalled and may require renegotiation in the future. The forum also touched on the implications of recent federal Executive Orders, though limited new guidance was provided. Looking ahead, NAWB plans to restructure the Forum by rotating its location nationwide, with a smaller legislative gathering in D.C. each year.

- PacMtn and ESD have reached a mutual agreement not to renew the lease for the WorkSource Thurston location at 1570 Irving Street in Tumwater, which is set to expire on December 31, 2025. The current space has proven to be underutilized and financially unsustainable. Efforts are already underway to identify a more appropriately scaled and cost-effective site, with PacMtn planning to assume the role of leaseholder. The search has focused on the Lacey Hub area, which offers proximity to key partners, a transit hub, and amenities that will enhance the experience for both staff and customers. We look forward to sharing further details, including a key update at the April Board meeting.
- Budget planning for PY25 presents significant challenges, with a projected 30% decrease in total revenue. Key drivers include reductions in state funding—EcSA is facing a 25% cut, and CRP an 85% reduction—alongside the sunset of several grant programs (Opioid Recovery, Pathways, and QUEST), which together account for nearly \$400,000 in lost revenue. While the Senate and House budgets preserve some CRP funding, its absence in the Governor’s budget leaves final allocations uncertain. In addition, we are awaiting the distribution of our federal earmark for the WorkEx program, which remains tied to broader federal activity. As a result, we anticipate significant reductions to Adult, Dislocated Worker, and EcSA services, though Youth funding remains steady at just over \$1 million. These realities will impact both PacMtn’s internal operations and our subcontractor budgets, and will be discussed in detail during the April Board Budget Workshop as we prepare for a leaner year ahead.

Stories of Hope and Impact

Shared from our valued partners:

“Haven in Allyn, a newly established, minority- and woman-owned assisted living facility in Mason County, was in search of qualified staff to support its growing business. The facility specializes in memory and respite care, requiring trained professionals to provide high-quality services to residents. However, as a newer business, they faced challenges in both recruitment and ensuring that employees had the necessary certifications to excel in their roles.

Recognizing this challenge, the Business Navigator team worked closely with Haven in Allyn to develop a workforce solution that addressed their hiring and training needs. Through the Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF) program, we facilitated an On-the-Job Training (OJT) opportunity for an administrative position, transitioning a part-time employee into a full-time role with a clear career pathway. This initiative not only secured stable employment for a local

job seeker but also provided Haven in Allyn with a skilled, committed employee to support their operations

Additionally, our partnership introduced Haven in Allyn to workforce training resources, allowing them to explore opportunities for Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Nursing Assistant Registered (NAR) training programs for future hires. With these resources in place, the business is now positioned to onboard and upskill new employees, ensuring high-quality care for their residents while fostering internal career progression.

This success story highlights how workforce development programs can bridge the gap between businesses and talent, strengthening the local economy while providing participants with pathways to self-sufficiency. Our continued collaboration with Haven in Allyn will further enhance their ability to train and retain a strong workforce, setting a foundation for long-term success.”