

Program Year 2025 Contracting Update

After a particularly challenging state and federal budget season, we are finally in a position to move forward with contracts for our PY25 subrecipients. While formal notices of award came later than usual—some not until mid-July, the final amounts were very close to, or slightly above, our forecast. This alignment ensures that contracts remain consistent with our approved budget. We are working diligently to finalize all agreements, though completion will likely extend into mid-to-late August. In the interim, awardees are operating under Letters of Intent (LOIs) to ensure services continue without disruption.

Strategic Planning Effort

The executive team and directors have been deeply engaged in a structured strategic planning process to ensure every staff member has clarity on their role, core functions, and how their work supports PacMtn's strategic direction and 4-year plan. With recent budget reductions, federal program shifts, and a necessary reduction in force, staff responsibilities and deliverables have shifted, creating some confusion and uncertainty. Based on feedback and our own observations, we recognized the need for intentional planning to rebuild confidence and alignment. The team now meets twice weekly with a clear agenda and is working through a RACI model for each staff member. This process will continue through October, and I will share more updates as the work advances.

Career Pathway Tools Development

We are advancing work on our career pathway tools, which support job seekers and system partners in making meaningful, informed career decisions. Our long-term goal is to bring several existing resources together into one cohesive "experience" under the *Opportunity Begins Here* campaign and branding. A preview of our current tools can be found on our website at [Career Pathways](#). This integrated approach will make it easier for job seekers, staff, and partners to navigate opportunities and align training and career decisions with high-demand sectors. The project is on track to be completed in time for the opening of our new Lacey One-Stop location in November.

New Lacey One-Stop Location

The Letter of Intent for the new WorkSource facility in Lacey has been signed, and we are now in lease negotiations. Full details will be presented to the Board for discussion and support at the August 28th meeting. Employment Security and other key system partners have worked collaboratively to identify a location that best meets the needs of our region. The chosen site is in the heart of Midtown (formerly "The Hub") and offers many advantages: close proximity to the transit hub, nearby parks, restaurants, and shopping, as well as strong connections to local partners. At the Fall Convening on September 18th, Board and Consortium members will have the opportunity to visit the area; Timberland Regional Libraries - Lacey will host the convening within walking distance of the new location.

Annual Report and Fall Convening

Development of the Annual Report is underway and will be a central feature of our Fall Convening in September. This year, PacMtn is shifting to a digital format, which will better

leverage our existing web content while reducing costs tied to printing and distribution. The new format will also allow us to highlight more detail on investments, outcomes, and storytelling from across the region. In addition, we are in the process of scheduling public commissioner meetings in each of the five counties, which will take place between October and November. These meetings, together with the convening, provide important opportunities to connect with local leadership, share results, and align priorities moving forward.

Community Service Day

At the end of the July, PacMtn staff participated in our annual Community Service Day. This year, we had the opportunity to support a local homeowner in Rainier who needed their house painted. Working alongside community partners, our team completed the project quickly and with great results—the homeowner was thrilled with the outcome. It was both a fun and rewarding experience for everyone involved. PacMtn supports up to eight hours of paid time annually for employees who want to give back through community service, whether by joining the group project or pursuing a cause of personal importance.



Business Investment Grants (BIG) Success

If you haven't already seen them online, PacMtn has posted stories on nine recipients of our Business Investment Grants (BIG), funded through WA Commerce's Community Reinvestment Program. These grants, ranging from \$2,500-\$5,000, were designed to support small but impactful investments for local businesses. The program was open to all small businesses in the region but targeted BIPOC-owned enterprises. We received over 100 applications and awarded 15 grants—all to BIPOC-owned businesses, with at least one recipient in every county. Two of these awardees will be featured at our upcoming Fall Convening: Barbe-Queen Kitchen of Pacific County will be on site with their food truck, serving lunch and sharing their story, and Charro Mexican Restaurant will host the New Board Member orientation dinner on September 17.

You can read all 9 stories here [In the Media](#).