



JOB SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM

JANUARY 2024

“From the JSP grant, we made several improvements that have streamlined our operations and cultivated a more integrated team. The expertise, leadership, and training available through the college have had a direct impact on several key areas of our business, including measurable increases in our productivity and revenue. The more important highlights of our collaboration with Evergreen Consultants and Skagit Valley College can be measured in the people we employ and the growth of their skills.”

Erin and Eric Graham, co-owners, Egis Mobil Electric

Affordable Training for a Competitive World

For 40 years, Washington business owners have turned to the Job Skills Training Program for affordable employee training programs.

Established by the Legislature in 1983, the program offers a dollar-for-dollar matching grant to help businesses train their experienced and new employees. Since then, more than 75,000 workers and 1,000 employers have benefited from the program.

With the Job Skills Program, qualified businesses partner with eligible providers — community and technical colleges, secondary vocational programs, public colleges and universities, apprenticeship trusts, and Washington state-licensed postsecondary schools — to tailor programs for exactly what that business needs.

In return, businesses contribute at least 50% of training expenses through cash, in-kind payments or a combination of both.

The Job Skills Program helps employers and workers alike stay up-to-speed in a competitive marketplace, boosting profitability and employability.

In-kind Payments

One of the benefits of the Job Skills Training Program is that it allows businesses to pay their 50% share in the form of “in-kind payments.” Rather than paying out-of-pocket, employers can meet their required match by

providing materials, supplies and equipment, and by wages and benefits paid to employees while in training.

Businesses with reported gross business income of less than \$500,000 are only required to match up to the level of actual wages and benefits paid to their employees while in training.

The Whole State Benefits

Job Skills grants are distributed to all corners of the state, including rural areas. They primarily serve areas where:

- There is a shortage of skilled labor to meet businesses’ needs.
- Upgrading employee skills is necessary to avoid layoffs.
- New businesses or industry clusters need a skilled labor pool.
- Communities struggle with high unemployment.

The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges administers the Job Skills Program with guidance from an advisory committee made up of representatives from business, labor and public and private educational institutions. A subcommittee meets to review, provide input, and recommend applications for the grants.

Representatives of the Department of Commerce and the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board also participate in the review process.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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2021-2023 Distribution of Grants

Distribution by region

Region	Number of JSP Projects in Region	Percent of JSP Projects in Region	Number of JSP Trainees by Region	Percent of JSP Trainees in Region	JSP Funds Awarded by Region	Percent of JSP Funds Awarded by Region
Central Puget Sound (King, Pierce & Snohomish)	74	59%	4,359	53%	\$10,642,908	70%
Balance of State – West	28	22%	1,769	22%	\$2,428,980	16%
Balance of State – East	19	15%	1,723	21%	\$1,743,046	11%
Spokane County	5	4%	312	4%	\$355,709	2%
Total	126	100%	8,163	100%	\$15,170,643	100%

Distribution of companies by industry

Manufacturing	All Other Industries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 103 Grants, 82% of all grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 Grants, 18% of all grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 Aerospace companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Agriculture Related companies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Food Production and Processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Construction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Wood/Paper Products companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 Other: Retail/Wholesale, Hospitals & Medical Services, Environmental Services, Gaming & Hospitality, Non-Profit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Naval/Marine companies 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 High Tech companies 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37 Other: Auto, Composite, Construction, Marine, Transportation, Medical Devices, Chemicals, Electronics, Pharmaceutical, Luggage/Accessories, Food/Beverage Production 	

2021-23 Job Skills Grant Fast Stats

All JSP Grants (2021-23 Biennium)	Totals and Averages
Total Number of Grants Awarded	126
Total number of projects competed*	118
Total number of training courses provided	1,204
Total number of employees trained	8,163
Average number of trainees per project	69
Average grant expenditure per trainee	\$1,709
Average total grant expenditure	\$127,484
*Note: Eight projects were cancelled after initial approval due to the pandemic or changing business circumstances.	

Source: "2021-2023 Job Skills Program: January 1, 2024 Biennial Report to the Legislature." <https://www.sbctc.edu/resources/documents/colleges-staff/grants/job-skills-program/2021-23-jsp-finalreport.pdf>