

JOB SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM

DECEMBER 2023

# 40 Years of Impact

The Job Skills Program (JSP) – started in 1983 to enhance economic development through short-term customized training – is now 40 years old. From 2,256 employees trained in the biennium 1983-1985, the program has grown and trained more than 75,000 employees in Washington State.

For the biennium 2021-2023, JSP awarded grants to 126 projects and, in partnership with community colleges, completed training for 8,163 employees. The graphs below describe the businesses that benefitted from JSP funding.

A pie chart with text

Description automatically generatedSize of Businesses Served by JSP Grants   
FY 21-23

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A pie chart of manufacturing

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Grants by Industry   
FY21-23

The industry count is based on the best match for businesses participating in each project. For consortia projects, the industry count is based on the business partner with the biggest number of employees. The manufacturing sector is composed of businesses engaged in aerospace, food production and processing, wood/paper products production, naval, high tech, auto, composites, marine, transportation, medical devices, chemicals, electronics, pharmaceutical, and handbags production. Non-manufacturing related include businesses in agriculture, construction, retail/wholesale, hospitals and medical services, environmental services, gaming and hospitality, and non-profit.

The program awards grants to licensed educational institutions in Washington. JSP funds half of the training cost. Partner employers provide cash or in-kind match to fund the other half.

Funds are awarded on a first-approved, rolling basis throughout the fiscal year. Applications are reviewed by a standing sub-committee of the Workforce Training Customer Advisory Committee.

# Impacts

*“For the past six months, we’ve been making profits. This was a team effort. Our team, local support network, and the college worked long hours to make this a viable operation*.”

- Peter Johnson, HR Director,   
McKinley Paper, Port Angeles

McKinley Paper is one of the world’s major paper manufacturers for packaging products, with operations in Mexico and the United States. The company partnered with Peninsula College for a $201,278 grant to train employees on job task documentation and standards, to implement structured training approaches, and to create illustrated work instructions designed to increase the skills of the company's existing workforce. Notable outcomes include:

• Completion of 306 training hours for 19 employees.

• Reduction of the turnover rate from 21% to 16%.

• Reduction of scrap or rework from 6% to 5%.

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