

WEDA = Jobs = Economic Vitality

Economic development is about jobs. But jobs don't just happen. Retaining and attracting jobs requires the commitment and hard work of many. Success is achieved when the private and public sectors work together. That is where WEDA steps in. WEDA provides a statewide network of the private and public sectors for job creation that benefits Washington state.

WEDA MISSION

To serve as the statewide professional association committed to the development of economic and employment opportunities in our state.

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The WEDA network:

- **Local economic development councils** contracted by Washington state as associate development organizations (ADOs), work to attract new private businesses and investment
- **Cities and counties** build infrastructure and issue project permits
- **Ports** provide transportation and shipping facilities
- **Workforce development** link employees and employers
- **Educators** build workforce knowledge and skills

WEDA fosters collaboration and advocates economic development best practices throughout Washington State.



By providing local jurisdictions with the tools needed for success, Washington can stay focused on best practices for attracting and permitting economic development

What is the role of state government?

- To ensure that the business climate is competitive in terms of regulation, tax policy, and infrastructure.
- To work in cooperation with the WEDA network ensuring that business prospects are handled professionally and their needs are addressed in a timely manner.
- To have executive and legislative leadership who advocate for choosing Washington, and who champion the public benefits from economic development.

What are the results?

- **Jobs:** Private investment creates jobs.
- **Revenues:** Business activity provides tax revenues.
- **Improved Quality of Life:** Tax revenues fund public services, facilities, and infrastructure to support our quality of life.

What is needed?

- Support for local capacity through a partnership with the WEDA network.
- Funding for local economic development infrastructure that supports job creation, private investment and community revitalization.
- Investment in workforce training to enhance workforce skills.

WEDA 2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As Washington state's professional association for economic development, WEDA is committed to finding solutions that create jobs and private investment in our state during these difficult economic times. To assist lawmakers with these goals, WEDA has adopted the following legislative priorities for 2015. These priorities focus on the most crucial actions that lawmakers can take to bring living-wage jobs, community revitalization and private investment to Washington State.

1) Improve Washington State's Economic Climate:

Washington State should take actions to improve the state's economic climate, including attracting private investment, funding STEM education, building necessary infrastructure, reducing the state's regulatory burden, funding CERB and workforce education, and maintaining the \$.09 Rural Economic Development Sales Tax Credit. The State should also focus more on policies targeted at promoting growth for small and mid sized businesses.

2) Increase Funding for Local Economic Development Programs:

Economic development is most effective when it happens at the local level. Washington State should increase investments in local economic development programs to be sure they are funded at the appropriate level for successful job growth. Priority programs include Associate Development Organizations, the Community and Economic Revitalization Board, Economic Gardening programs, Startup Washington 365, Innovation Partnership Zones, local workforce training programs and the Department of Commerce's initiatives to market Washington State as the best place in the world to operate a business.

3) Reinstate R&D Tax Incentive :

Washington should reinstate Research and Development tax incentives. Washington is now one of only a handful of states to not provide an R&D incentive and multiple studies demonstrate a clear correlation between these incentives and significant, high wage job growth. Washington also has some key tax policies that lead to job recruitment, retention and expansion including Business & Occupation (B&O) tax credits, aerospace incentives, and food processing and agricultural incentives. These key tax policies should be maintained so that jobs are not lost. In addition, all tax incentives should be reviewed periodically to assure that they provide intended returns. These key tax policies for jobs should be maintained and reviewed to assure the intended returns.



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SUCCESS STORIES

The WEDA network has been successful in retaining and creating jobs and securing millions in private investment in Washington State.

Asotin County: Creation of the Snake River Boat Builders Export Program resulted in retention of 150 boat building industry jobs.

Benton County: AREVA consolidated in Kennewick creating 50 new jobs and millions in investment.

Clallam County: Retained 110 aerospace jobs and \$4 million in investment by successfully competing with 5 other states for Angeles Composite Technologies.

Clark County: Sapa Extrusions chose Port of Vancouver for a new plant creating 100 new family wage jobs and \$9.5 million in private investment.

Grant County: Dell data center in Quincy created 150 new jobs and over \$300 million in capital investment.

Pierce County: Carlisle Construction Material was successfully recruited creating 100 new benefitted jobs and \$25 million in investment.

Spokane County: Caterpillar Logistics Services will bring 100-150 jobs, \$33.8 million in private investment and \$453,000 in annual taxes to Spokane.

Thurston County: ACS/Xerox chose to stay and expand retaining 500 jobs and creating an additional 1,000 new jobs in the City of Lacey.

Yakima County: Paragon Films opened a new plant which will bring over 50 jobs and a new manufacturing facility in Union Gap.

WASHINGTON STATE ADO ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2009-2014

- ◆ 323 companies recruited
- ◆ 1,021 companies expanded
- ◆ 448 new businesses started
- ◆ 27,606 private sector jobs created/retained
- ◆ \$3.4 billion in private investment
- ◆ 1,402 Washington businesses served
- ◆ \$198 in private investment for every \$1 in state ADO funding
- ◆ 1 job created for every \$605 in state funding