



Quarter 1 Report

July - September, 2011



Worksystems, Inc. is a 501(c)3 private non-profit serving the City of Portland, Multnomah and Washington Counties whose mission is to coordinate a regional workforce system that supports individual prosperity and business competitiveness.

1618 SW First Avenue
Suite 450

Portland, Oregon 97201

Office: 503-478-7300

www.worksystems.org

<http://blog.worksystems.org>

“When I first found out about the On-the-Job Training program funded by Worksystems and offered through WorkSource Portland Metro, I said: ‘Why isn’t everyone doing this?’ It gave us the opportunity to provide our workers with higher pay and a higher level of skill with less financial risk.”

- Andrew Bauroth
Director of Manufacturing
XpanD USA

Follow Us Online:



A Message from the Executive Director

With an area of more than 6,600 square miles, a population of over 2.2 million, a workforce of nearly 1.7 million, more than 50,000 businesses, 2 states, 7 counties, 24 cities, 27 colleges and universities, 28 business chambers, 41 school districts, and 61 economic development organizations, the Portland - Vancouver Metropolitan Area is a vibrant, diverse, (and yes) complex region.

In full appreciation of our unique local jurisdictions, the area’s 3 Workforce Investment Boards believe there are significant advantages to building a regional approach to workforce development and talent management. To this end, we are proud to announce the Portland - Vancouver Regional Workforce Collaborative, a new strategy to better serve industry, support economic development and guide public workforce investments. Our partnership will align and leverage training resources, coordinate workforce efforts, increase our ability to pursue resources and fill gaps, and link workforce supply and industry demand.

The quality of our workforce is a primary driver of economic development and the region’s overall economic health and we believe that this new collaborative puts us on the path to long term success.

While many details still need to be worked out, we are excited to work with our partner Boards and the community to make our regional workforce collaborative a success and we look forward to rolling it out in the coming weeks.

Quarterly Highlights

- 25,954 people received services through WorkSource Portland Metro including career counseling, skills assessment, basic education, occupational training, and job-placement.
- 407 youth received services such as education leading to a grade level gain in literacy and/or numeracy, a GED or certificate attainment, college preparation and placement, job placement, and follow-up services.
- Worksystems and former staff person, Amy Parkhurst, were presented with the Nancy Hargis Award for Leadership in Career Development by the Oregon Career Information System Board for our BizConnect program.
- Worksystems, the Portland Development Commission, and the Oregon Microenterprise Network received a \$2.1 million grant to grow the clean technology cluster and train people for jobs in the industry.

Adult Investments for Quarter 1, 2011

Worksystems convenes partners, coordinates services and provides funding to help job seekers get the skills they need to support themselves and to meet the staffing needs of regional industry. We optimize resources by aligning and integrating essential workforce and educational services through the public workforce development system - WorkSource Portland Metro. Worksystems provides oversight and coordination to insure that WorkSource Portland Metro responds to the needs of job seekers and regional industry.

Jobseeker Profile

- 59% of unemployment insurance recipients exhausted benefits in 2010
- 29% self-reported receiving public assistance
- 64% tested below 9th grade math level
- 59% tested below 9th grade reading level
- 9% self-reported not completing high school or earning a GED
- 7% self-reported having a criminal background

Race/Ethnicity	Adults Served	Population*
African American	8%	4%
Asian	6%	7%
Caucasian	71%	75%
Hawaiian Pacific Islander	2%	>1%
American Indian or Alaskan	3%	1%
Hispanic or Latino	10%	13%
Female	49%	51%
Male	51%	49%

* 2009 American Community Survey

Did You Know?

In Multnomah and Washington Counties:

The unemployment rate is 8.4%, equaling 59,000 people.

Additionally, 69,000 people are under-employed.

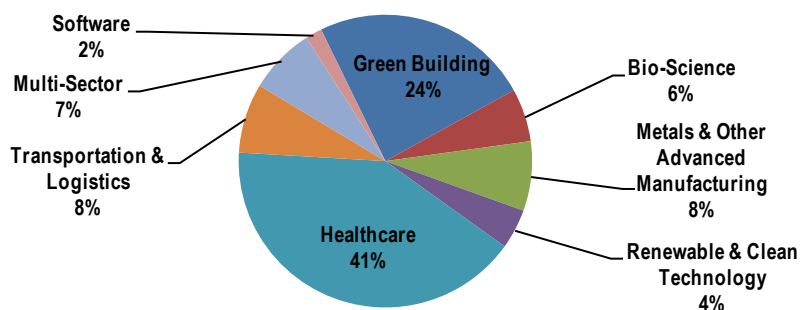
229,000 people are receiving food stamps.

165,000 people are living below poverty, equaling 13% of the population in the two counties.

25,954 People Received Services through WorkSource Portland Metro

- ✘ 14,475 received employment assistance through resumé, interview, job search and placement services
- ✘ 48% got a job with 81% still employed after 9 months
- ✘ 17,384 received a skills assessment (includes NCRC)
- ✘ 2,123 received personalized career counseling services
- ✘ 1,194 enrolled in a basic education class such as ESL, GED, math, English or computer literacy
- ✘ 269 engaged in occupational training in target industries with an 89% completion rate
- ✘ 26 new hires received on-the-job training in target industries
- ✘ 15 incumbent workers received training in target industries

Trainees by Target Industry



Services Offered at WSPM (partial list)

- One-on-One Advising
- Career Exploration
- Interviewing Workshop
- Resumé Writing
- Job Clubs
- Job Search
- WSPM Scholarship Preparation
- National Career Readiness Certification
- Basic Skills Assessment
- Basic Skills Training including computer literacy and workplace English
- Internships
- On-the-Job Training
- Occupational Training
- Veterans' Services
- Prosperity Planner
- Labor Market Information
- Rapid Response Layoff Services
- Resource Room



Youth Investments for Quarter 1, 2011

Worksystems invests funds to support a diverse population of disconnected, low-income and barriered youth, aged 16-21 through a system of alternative school providers and community based organizations. Our investments prepare youth for college and career-ladder employment through degree or certificate attainment, work readiness training, career exploration and transition to post-secondary education.

Youth Profile

- 99% were low income
- 50% received public assistance
- 77% had no high school diploma or GED
- 9% were pregnant or parenting
- 48% were out of school
- 12% were homeless

Race/Ethnicity	Youth Served	Population*
African American	17%	5%
Asian	5%	7%
Caucasian	43%	73%
Hawaiian Pacific Islander	2%	>1%
American Indian or Alaskan	4%	2%
Hispanic or Latino	29%	14%
Female	48%	49%
Male	52%	51%

* 2009 American Community Survey

407 Youth, Aged 16-21, Received Services from 11 Alternative Schools & Community Based Orgs.

- ☒ 79% attained a degree or certificate
- ☒ 50% achieved a grade level gain in literacy or numeracy
- ☒ 54% were placed in college or employment
 - 67% placed in college with 48% still in school after 9 months
 - 33% placed in employment (only) with 86% still employed after 9 months
- ☒ An additional 324 youth received follow-up services

Youth Contractors' Outcomes



Did You Know?

In Multnomah and Washington Counties:

There are 20,000 youth aged 16-21 who are eligible to receive Workforce Investment Act services.

The public high school on-time graduation rate is 65%.

There is a 46% unemployment rate among young adults aged 19-21.

BizConnect: Bridging Youth & Business

BizConnect is a program to connect high school-aged youth with work-based career exploration activities in area businesses. Businesses and youth can choose from a variety of activities from company tours and job shadows to guest speaking in a classroom or internships.

To date:

- BizConnect is used by 18 K-12 Schools and 12 Community Based Organizations/Alternative Schools in Washington and Multnomah Counties
- More than 850 volunteers from businesses are in the system

BizConnect helps students meet their graduation requirement of a career related learning experience and helps businesses connect with the next generation of employees.

Contact us to become a BizConnect business volunteer.



Workforce System Partners

Beaverton School District	Native American Rehabilitation Association
Brothers & Sisters Keepers	Native American Youth & Family Center
Cascade AIDS Project	Neighborhood House
Catholic Charities	New Avenues for Youth
Central City Concern	Open Meadow Alternative School
City of Portland	Oregon Department of Human Services
Clackamas Community College	Oregon Employment Department
Clark College	Oregon Human Development Corporation
Community Action	Oregon Institute of Technology
Emmanuel Temple	Outside In
Friendly House	Portland Community College
Goodwill	Portland Development Commission (EOI)
Hacienda Community Development	Portland Housing Bureau
Hillsboro School District	Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center
HomeForward	Portland Youth Builders
Human Solutions	Reaching And Empowering People, Inc
Immigrant & Refugee Community Org.	Re-entry Transition Center
Impact NW	Self Enhancement Incorporated
Incight	SE Works
International Refugee Center of Oregon	Steps to Success
Labor's Community Service Agency	Urban League of Portland
Metropolitan Contractor Improvement Partnership	Verde
Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good	Volunteers of America
Mt Hood Community College	Washington County Corrections
Multnomah County	Washington County Department of Housing

Spotlight on On-the-Job Training

Worksystems has secured \$1.9 million in state funding to support On-the-Job Training (OJT) for up to 400 people, and additional federal grants secured from the US Department of Labor could support another 280 people.

On-the-Job Training funds are resources to help businesses train new hires who possess most, but not all of, the skills necessary for the job by providing up to \$5,000 in wage subsidies for up to 6 months of training.

Since the inception of the OJT program nearly 100 area businesses have used these funds to offset the costs associated with recruiting and training new workers. Plus, 309 job seekers have obtained employment and received training to enhance their skills.

OJT funds are available to businesses throughout Washington and Multnomah Counties through their local WorkSource Portland Metro office.

Worksystems Provides Funding to Train Non-Native Speakers



Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) has more than 13,000 employees. For many of them, English is a second language. OHSU recently applied for, and was awarded, funds from Worksystems to train non-native speaking staff from their Food and Nutrition Department in workplace English and basic computers. The training was intended to increase productivity and customer service and to prepare employees for advancement opportunities within the institution.

Graduates increased their conversational English skills enabling them to communicate better with co-workers, patients and visitors and making it easier to convey important information about food and beverage preparation.

In addition, the employees became more proficient in basic computers making it possible for them to perform their jobs more efficiently and pursue additional training online to prepare for higher level positions.

The reaction from the students has been very positive. "I am interested in taking more classes," said Shong Tsoi. "I want to keep developing my skills." And Zewdi Gebrehiwot said "The training helped me to be more productive and effective working with computers. If I have further training, I will be at my best."

OHSU was pleased with the training as well. "The students were grateful for the opportunity to take these classes," said Tatiana Grabowski, Senior Departmental Trainer. "It has opened a door for them and will help them realize their career goals."

WSI is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. To place a free relay call in Oregon dial 711. These programs funded in whole or in part through a grant from the US Department of Labor.