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Worksystems and Area Workforce and Housing Partners Receive \$5.5 Million Grant to Train 480 Public Housing Residents

Portland, Oregon, June 14, 2012 – Worksystems Inc., in collaboration with the Workforce Investment Council of Clackamas County, the SW Washington Workforce Development Council, Home Forward and the Housing Authorities of Washington County, Clackamas County and Vancouver, has been awarded a \$5.5million Workforce Innovation Fund grant from the US Department of Labor to help 480 public housing residents in the region gain the life and employment skills necessary to attain self-sufficiency.

Funds will be used to replicate and expand a successful 2010 collaboration between Home Forward and Worksystems, Inc. whereby Home Forward residents were provided a broad array of workforce development services, sector-based training, and other support to move them into living wage jobs. Considered a “promising idea” by the US Department of Labor, funds will also support a rigorous evaluation component to analyze the successful employment outcomes for possible replication outside the Portland Metro Area.

The grant partners will work together to co-invest resources to train and support public housing residents with the shared goal of increasing employment and earning potential. The alliance will work to eliminate program redundancies, identify and resolve barriers to aligned service delivery, and build a sustainable partnership model.

The US Department of Labor’s Workforce Innovation Fund supports innovative approaches to the design and delivery of employment and training services that generate long-term improvements in the performance of the public workforce system, resulting in better and more cost effective employment outcomes. Only 26 grants were awarded nationally.

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Worksystems, Inc. (www.worksystems.org) is a non-profit agency that accelerates economic growth in the City of Portland, Multnomah and Washington counties by pursuing and investing resources to improve the quality of the workforce. We design and coordinate workforce development programs and services delivered through a network of local partners to help people get the skills, training and education they need to go to work or to advance in their careers. Our partners include employers, labor groups, government, community colleges, high schools, community-based and economic development organizations.

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