



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Worksystems and Area Workforce Partners Secure \$8.5 Million to Train 1,000 Long-Term Unemployed and Veterans

Portland, OR – Worksystems, in collaboration with the Workforce Investment Council of Clackamas County and the SW Washington Workforce Development Council, has been awarded \$8.5 million for the *Reboot NW* initiative which will train 850 long-term unemployed residents and 150 career-seeking veterans for jobs in the manufacturing and IT sectors.

Grant partners will implement targeted outreach to identify 1,000 participants seeking employment in the manufacturing or IT sectors who need skill development to obtain employment. The grant will fund critical occupational skill training while fast-tracking participants through industry credentialing and certification programs, giving them the in-demand skills needed by employers. Grant participants will also receive paid work experiences, job placement assistance, and on-the-job training to help *Reboot* their careers.

“These resources will infuse local high-growth manufacturing and IT businesses with trained, local workers while addressing a key workforce issue that has hampered our economy: long-term unemployment,” said Worksystems Executive Director Andrew McGough. “We are proud of the strong partnerships we have in place that helped position us to secure these highly competitive resources and allow for the seamless delivery of workforce services across our labor shed.”

As one of just 23 awards nationwide, this grant demonstrates the region’s growing commitment to work together to solve difficult challenges. This initiative is supported by a strong, regional, bi-state coalition comprised of three workforce boards and numerous employers, industry associations, training providers, community based organizations and economic development partners. More information on other national grant awardees can be found in the [press release](#) issued by the US Department of Labor.

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About the three Workforce Boards:

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.

The Workforce Investment Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a strong workforce in Clackamas County. Through public-private partnerships, we attract funding to help local businesses proactively address a key challenge to their success—a skilled, competitive workforce. For more information, visit <http://www.wicco.org>.

Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) provides leadership and resources to increase economic development by providing a trained and productive workforce in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties. Led by a diverse board of representatives from business, labor, community-based organizations and government agencies, the SWWDC responds to the unique needs of SW Washington. For more information, visit www.swwdc.org.

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