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WDC's Self-Sufficiency Calculator wins top honor for innovation in nonprofit technology

SEATTLE—The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County is the 2009 winner of [NPower Seattle's](#) Innovation Award for the Self-Sufficiency Calculator, an online financial tool.

Announced at NPower's 10th anniversary luncheon last week, the award honors the Calculator (www.thecalculator.org) for making information from a complicated database easily accessible to anyone.

"We are thrilled to be recognized for the Calculator," says Kris Stadelman, CEO of the [Workforce Development Council](#). "We have made self-sufficiency our guiding principle, and this tool has made it possible."

The WDC first developed the Calculator in 2001 for Seattle-King County. It is used throughout the WDC's employment and training programs as a tool for financial planning and career decisions. It also provides a baseline to measure how effectively WDC programs help people progress towards self-sufficiency.

The Calculator is based on the Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington, using research from the University of Washington. It shows the cost of covering a family's basic needs with no outside assistance—based on the family's unique composition and the area in which they live. It also shows subsidies and work supports (such as child care or energy assistance) for which a family might qualify.

An upgrade last fall took the Calculator statewide, so that anyone in Washington can use it. Portland, Oregon, is now developing its own version of the Calculator.

The WDC's key partners in the Calculator are Dr. Diana Pearce of the University of Washington, who developed the Self-Sufficiency Standard, and [Incommand](#), a website developer in Yakima.

NPower's Innovation Awards, of which 2009's is the fourth annual, honor creative new technologies that help magnify a nonprofit agency's mission. NPower's mission is to help Puget Sound nonprofits use technology to better serve their communities.

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The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County (www.seakingwdc.org) is a private, nonprofit organization that oversees employment-related programs for youth, the adult workforce and employers in King County, with the goal of a strong economy and self-sufficiency for every resident.