



For Immediate Release:
July 1, 2010

Contact: **Margret Graham, WDC**
(206) 448-0474, ext. 3029
mgraham@seakingwdc.org

Happy New Year: WDC releases \$15 million for workforce development in Seattle-King County

SEATTLE—July 1 marks the first day of the 2010 program year for the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County—as well as the official release of about \$15 million for local job training, employment services and industry strategies.

“With almost 86,000 individuals still out of work in King County, we have a key role to play in matching the skills of the workforce with the skills that employers are seeking,” said Marléna Sessions, CEO of the WDC. “Our board and our partners in the community take this role very seriously.”

The \$15 million—which comes from a variety of federal, state and local sources—will serve adults who are in need of employment assistance, including “dislocated workers” laid off from their jobs, as well as at-risk teens and youth. (As announced today by the state Employment Security Department, the WDC will release an additional \$1 million for laid-off workers this fall.) The funds are contracted to organizations in the community who provide job training, individual employment counseling, job placement, and a wide range of other supports and assistance to adults and youth.

These service providers include county agencies, nonprofits such as the YWCA and Neighborhood House, community colleges and many more. In 2009, about \$3.5 million went to local colleges and schools that provide skills training. The WDC also oversees [WorkSource Seattle-King County](#), the local system of employment centers, and programs focusing on academic support and hands-on, career experience for at-risk youth.

New WDC efforts for 2010 include [green-jobs training](#) using \$10 million in Recovery Act (stimulus) funding for which the WDC successfully competed to bring to the community.

Another new project is [Reinvesting in Older Workers](#), a project targeting the needs of jobseekers over 55, especially those with barriers to success.

In 2009, the WDC’s accomplishments included:

- 1,200 individuals placed in jobs
- 1,000 teens and youth employed in [summer internships](#) through stimulus funding
- 6,000 jobseekers served each month at [WorkSource centers](#)
- [New certification courses](#) purchased from local colleges for 12 groups of students in high-demand occupations (including nursing, accounting, project management and more)
- New [career-mapping tools](#) developed in partnership with industry.

“We’re looking forward to another year of high impact in our community,” said Ms. Sessions. “The most challenging times are still times of opportunity, and we are focused on expanding opportunity for everyone.”

###

The **Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County** (www.seakingwdc.org) is a nonprofit workforce “think tank” and grant-making 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.