



Mission

The Port will partner with local and regional organizations to facilitate career development in the maritime, logistics, manufacturing, and construction trades.

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Strategies

Rather than being a direct provider of workforce development services, the Port will leverage its physical, financial, procurement and public engagement resources, to invest in and partner with the local and regional service providers.

- **WD 1** Identify opportunities to utilize Port-owned properties in partnership with local and regional organizations to facilitate maritime industry career development.
- **WD 2** Partner with government and local and regional organizations to facilitate career development through financial investments.
- **WD 3** Identify opportunities to utilize the Port's procurement processes by prioritizing contracts with organizations that facilitate maritime industry career development.
- **WD 4** Promote awareness of career pathways in the maritime trades.

Background

RCW 53.08.245 authorizes port districts in Washington state to contract with nonprofit corporations and private and public entities that provide training systems as defined in RCW 28C.18.010 and promote workforce diversity in furtherance of this and other acts relating to economic development.

In February 2022, the Port of Tacoma Commission adopted Resolution 2022-03 in which it found that workforce development is critical to achieving the Port's primary mission to serve as an economic development agency generating quality, family-wage jobs and economic growth for the region and increasing operational efficiency and economic mobility. The resolution found the Port of Tacoma's over-arching workforce development objective is to ensure that the maritime industry have access to workers who have the necessary skills to provide safe and efficient maritime services and that the workers have opportunities to acquire the skills and education they need to secure increasingly complex and better compensated jobs.

Resolution 2022-03 directed the Executive Director to develop plans and policies to complete a workforce development strategic plan and implementing policies to improve upon and expand current efforts in port-related sectors, develop new partnerships with regional stakeholders, work with labor partners in such efforts, and establish contracts with service providers as necessary to deliver on the plan for formal consideration by the Port Commission. The resolution also directed the Executive Director to focus on well-paying jobs that do not require a four-year college degree in the following fields: building trades, manufacturing trades and transportation and logistics trades.



