Washington Jobs Initiative
Q2 2026 Update

August 2026

Highlights

The Washington Jobs Initiative (WJI) has officially achieved its goals for enrollment, completion, and job placements a quarter early! Due to the incredibly hard work of the sectoral partnerships and their strategic shifts to deal with major economic changes over the past two years, we have already placed 3,164 participants into good jobs. These are jobs that exceed the prevailing wage, offer benefits, and/or are union jobs. They also provide pathways to meaningful careers.

In our remaining quarter, we will continue to serve current participants and gather results for past participants. We are working with the Education Research & Data Center (ERDC) to track down old unreported outcomes using UI wage data. We are also looking at the sustainability of WJI programs and how to continue this strong workforce development work in future programs.

Table 1. WJI Cumulative Outcomes as of Q2 (April - June) 2026.

	Targets	Q1 2026 Outcomes	Q1 2026 % Complete	Q2 2026 Outcomes	Q2 2026 % Complete
Enrollments	5,000	5,041	101%	5,329	107%
Completions	3,150	3,097	98%	3,198	102%
Placements	3,150	2,800	89%	3,164	100%

Sectoral Partnership Community of Practice Focuses on Next Steps

Community of Practice Recap

This June, as part of our sustainability efforts, the full WJI technical assistance team (Washington STEM, WSAC, ESD, WSLC, and EQUITY) convened sectoral partnerships in person for a Community of Practice. The gathering created space for partners to build synergy around sustainability. These are the kind of nuanced, candid conversations that only happen face-to-face. Partners reflected on their journeys, shared successes and lessons learned, and talked about what it will take to sustain effective efforts. Conversations focused on the future of apprenticeships in postsecondary, the power of storytelling with data, and how to carry this work forward beyond the life of the grant.

Key Insights

- Apprentices are college students — they deserve wraparound supports and proactive outreach from colleges when enrolled in their RSI classes.

- Sharing successes broadly is key to sustainability.
- Stories anchor the work — it's about neighbors, not just numbers.
- Data provides evidence of impact but can create risk for the populations being served.

What Partners Need

- Ongoing spaces to connect across sectors and backbone organizations.
- Flexible funding and help leveraging successes into sustainable resources.
- Guidance on using data responsibly while protecting vulnerable populations.
- Support sustaining relationships and momentum after the grant ends.

WJI Helps Participants Find Jobs and Employers Find Interns

The goal of WJI is to train and place participants in good jobs while also ensuring that employers' hiring needs are met. In the clean energy sector, the King County JumpStart sectoral partnership works hard to match participants and employers so that both benefit.

One example is an internship that Manasseh Mutua was placed in with EcoSpark Heat Pumps.

"I wasn't sure how to go about to get a job or get an internship, but they really helped me just to connect me with contractors and they really followed up with me. It connected me with my current employers. I started working with them as an intern, and now they hired me."

Photo of Manasseh Mutua, a WJI King County JumpStart participant

Photo of Mike O'Brien, Co-Owner, EcoSpark Heat Pumps

"It's difficult, frankly, to find people that have just enough skills to come in and are ready to learn. Having a partner like King County and the Jumpstart programs, where they are recruiting people to their program, they're vetting them, then they call us up and say, 'Hey, we have another class graduating. Would you be interested in taking an intern?' It's been a dream for us."

Sectors Reflect on Grant Accomplishments and Sustainability Plans

As the grant comes to an end, partners are working to place participants in good jobs and maintaining the partnerships and systems created over the course of the grant. For each sectoral partnership, we include highlights of their overall grant accomplishments and their sustainability plans after the grant ends.

Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace

The Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace sector continues to focus on employer engagement as it works to place participants into good jobs.

Table 2. Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace Outcomes as of June 2026.

	Targets	Outcomes	% Complete
Enrollments	929	969	104%
Completions	736	778	106%
Placements	471	351	75%

Grant Highlights: The Manufacturing WORKS sectoral partnership has focused on convening and facilitating a Manufacturing Roundtable. This helps employers learn more about participant journeys, find shared workforce challenges, and coordinate solutions. The Aerospace & Manufacturing sectoral partnership created multiple onramps for participants. These include boot camps and pre-apprenticeships, with programs run in partnership with local community-based organizations and tribal governments.

Sustainability Plans: The Manufacturing sector will continue to engage employers and support participants with wraparound supports, as funding allows.

Clean Technology and Energy

The Clean Technology and Energy sector is working to expand its pipeline to serve and place more participants into jobs.

Table 3. Clean Technology and Energy Outcomes as of June 2026.

	Targets	Outcomes	% Complete
Enrollments	116	84	72%
Completions	98	61	62%
Placements	80	49	61%

Grant Highlights: The King County JumpStart sectoral partnership created a fully staffed pilot with WJI funding. The program established a network of contractors, integrated their program into King County's workforce and capital project strategy, and created a model that other regions can follow.

Sustainability Plans: The Clean Technology and Energy sector plans to maintain and grow their contractor network and provide technical assistance for regional replication.

Construction

The Construction sector is showing strong outcomes and has exceeded its job placement target.

Table 4. Construction Outcomes as of June 2026.

	Targets	Outcomes	% Complete
Enrollments	1,355	1,477	109%
Completions	298	278	93%
Placements	1,235	1,287	104%

Grant Highlights: The Construct a Career Initiative sectoral partnership built strong sector partnerships across workforce, apprenticeship, and public systems. They created a full model for apprenticeship navigation and structured education and awareness outreach to underrepresented populations. This work showed enormous impact, with an 83% retention rate for participants served with navigation only and 90% retention rate for participants served with navigation and wraparound supports. In comparison, the average retention rate for the industry is 64%. The Pierce Spokane Construction WORKS sectoral partnership focused heavily on engaging employers by hosting an employer-led roundtable and tool drives.

Sustainability Plans: The Construction sector will continue employer engagement with roundtables, maintain education and awareness on construction careers, and provide wraparound supports as funding allows.

Healthcare

The Healthcare sector continues to expand programs and partnerships to better serve participants.

Table 5. Healthcare Outcomes as of June 2026.

	Targets	Outcomes	% Complete
Enrollments	1,557	1,014	65%
Completions	979	759	78%
Placements	785	683	87%

Grant Highlights: The Healthcare Talent Development Pipeline sectoral partnership worked with employers to create a two-way referral process and develop new programs, such as the Providence English Language Learner CNA program. The TRIAGE sectoral partnership collaborated with community partners to provide workshops on healthcare careers and life skills. They also created a new healthcare pre-apprenticeship program to create pathways to healthcare careers.

Sustainability Plans: The Healthcare sector will continue partnerships with community organizations for outreach, develop new nursing apprenticeships, and maintain and strengthen wraparound supports through braided funding and referrals.

Information Technology and Cybersecurity

The Information Technology and Cybersecurity is focused on partnerships and participant job placement.

Table 6. Information Technology and Cybersecurity Outcomes as of June 2026.

	Targets	Outcomes	% Complete
Enrollments	2,068	1,785	86%
Completions	1,550	1,322	85%
Placements	1,000	794	79%

Grant Highlights: The Washington Tech Workforce Coalition sectoral partnership built and strengthened employer partnerships, improved visibility of job opportunities for participants, and grew awareness of tech pathways within community colleges.

Sustainability Plans: The Information Technology and Cybersecurity sector will maintain relationships with employers and training providers. They will also maintain and grow their LinkedIn group to provide networking opportunities between participants and employers.

About the Washington Student Achievement Council

The Washington Student Achievement Council is committed to increasing educational opportunities and attainment in Washington. The Council has three main functions:

- Lead statewide strategic planning to increase educational attainment.
- Administer programs that help people access and pay for college.
- Advocate for the economic, social, and civic benefits of higher education.

The Council has ten members. Four members represent each of Washington's major education sectors: four-year public baccalaureates, four-year private colleges, public community and technical colleges, and K-12 public schools. Six are citizen members, including two current students (one graduate student and one undergraduate student).

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format, please contact the Washington Student Achievement Council at:

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