

**COMMUNITY
WORKS
PROJECT**

Self-sufficiency through employment



COMMUNITYWORKS PROJECT (CWP)

is a consortium representing the collaborative initiative of 6 community-based culturally competent organizations with a collective 100 years of experience providing employment and social services to help traditionally underserved individuals/families from diverse background to achieve economic self- sufficiency.



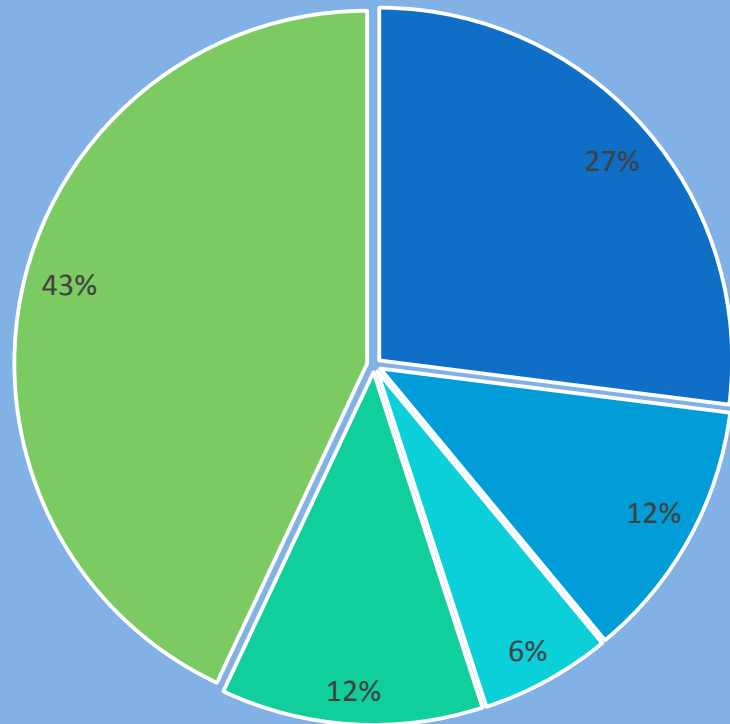


Since 2012 CWP holds a contract with Multnomah County Department of Human Services to provide Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) program for TANF recipients. This program helps low-income families avoid the need for welfare.



Who Do We Serve

CWP Customers 2013-2014 Demographics



- African Americans
- Latino/Hispanic
- Native American
- Immigrant/Refugee
- White

What Do We Do

As a contractor with Multnomah County Department of Human Services, CWP provides core job preparation and placement services required by JOBS program guidelines.

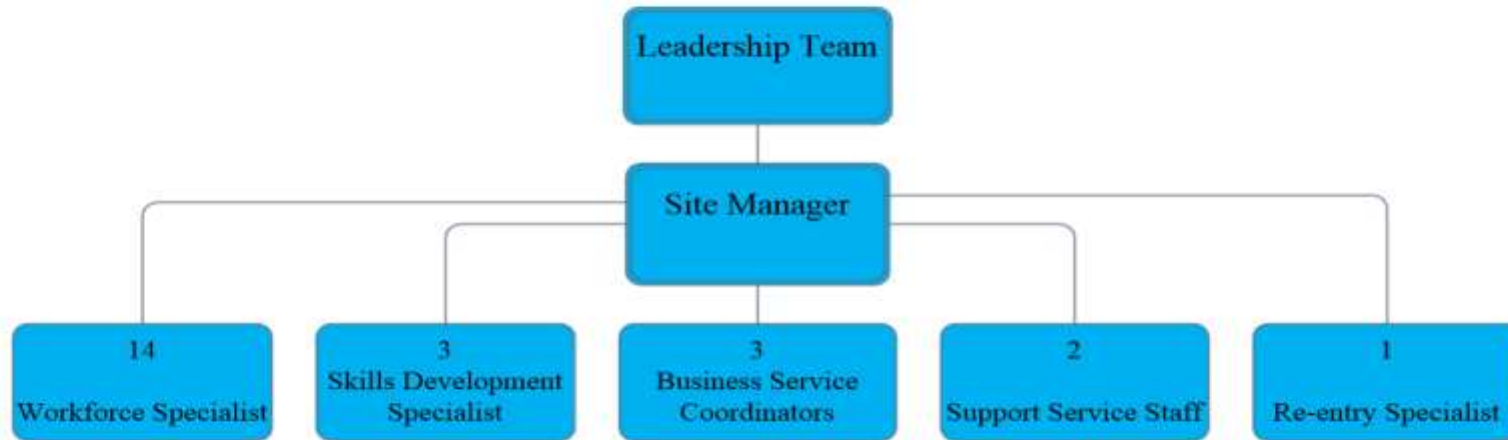
Services include:

- Job readiness skill building activities
- Staff assisted job search activities
- Unpaid work experience
- JOBS Plus opportunities
- Employment placements





Community Works Project Operational Communication Chart



This chart reflects Community Works Project's operational structure only.

The logo consists of a dark blue vertical rectangle. Inside the rectangle, the word "EMPLOYMENT" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters, oriented vertically from top to bottom. To its right, the word "OPPORTUNITIES" is written in white, uppercase letters, also oriented vertically from top to bottom, but in a smaller font size than "EMPLOYMENT".

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CWP Partnership/Alignment Opportunities

In a collaborative effort with “parent” agencies, workforce development programs, and local businesses CWP built a continuum of wraparound services to remove JOBS participants barriers for employment opportunities and support them in reaching their goals established jointly by DHS case managers, CWP Workforce Specialists, and customers.

Housing Support and Coordination Services

“Parent” Agencies Services

Short term rent assistance programs, shelters, long term housing through:

- Human Solutions
- IRCO
- NAYA
- SEI
- EL Programa Hispano



CWP Services

- Support with application/enrollment process
- Direct access to agencies' staff for follow-up, job search verifications for Action for Prosperity Program customers
- Communication support
- Assistance with JOBS/CWP enrollment

Challenges:

- Complicated, cumbersome and lengthy access process with very limited resources
- Since CWP customers are NOT a priority group, coordination is rather grassroots movement than formalized process

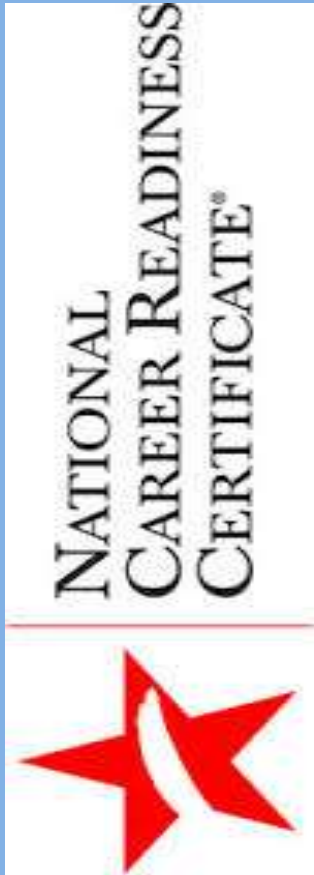


Many CWP customers are victims of domestic violence and as a result become homeless or in danger to become homeless.

CWP provides culturally specific referrals to IRCO, SEI, NAYA, El Programa Hispano and other community resources and continuous services coordination.



CWP Partnerships with Workforce Development System



- Workforce Specialists assist every customer with WSPM registration and services navigation (skill building workshops, OJT, talent link, training scholarship attainment, etc.)
- Employment department staff is on site providing assistance with job leads.
- Business Services team coordinates on site hiring events with WSPM employment team.
- Eligible CWP customers are dual enrolled in Human Solutions/SEI Pathway to Success, IRCO VCM, SE Works Prisoner Reentry Employment Program (PREP). These programs are members of the Aligned Partner network and funded through the Economic Opportunity Initiative. Customers benefit from coordinated staff support and resources.
- CWP became first NCRC testing site for TANF recipients at DHS. Tests are conducted twice a month.
- CWP English language learners are referred to Workplace ESL workshop series at Worksource Centers.



CWP is a member of

- East Portland Chamber of Commerce
 - Gresham Chamber of Commerce
 - Columbia Corridor Association
- Gateway Area Business Association



Many members of these organizations are owners of small local businesses. They have been taking advantage of CWP comprehensive employment services. They select qualified and prescreened CWP job seekers and start them with skill building work experience, move them up and offer them jobs if successful.

Small businesses hired CWP customers:

- Westside Secretarial
- Kevin Minkoff CPA
- Classique Floors Partner Shop
- ReStore
- My Sister's House
- Tax Tribute
- Glad Rags
- Devaki Deli
- Hair Heaven

and many more





“Parent” agencies are loyal CWP employers

CWP customers successfully completed work experiences and/or job plus training and became employees at:

- **IRCO:** WEX-Y program Business Outreach specialist, SummerWorks Support Services Specialist, Administrative assistant.
- **NAYA:** Energy assistance program support, Client Services Advocate.
 - **SEI:** Receptionist, Data Specialist.
- **Human Solutions:** Client Advocate, Daybreak Shelter Staff.



Recommendations

- Create a coordinated, streamlined system to provide access to services for TANF recipients through existing community-based providers to prevent homelessness and move them out of poverty (CWP could be a model for a pilot project)
- Align the Economic Opportunity Program model with JOBS program model to help low-income people on public assistance to obtain career focused jobs with livable wages.

“I don’t need just a job! I need a job to never ask for cash assistance anymore” (CWP customer).