Learn More: Support Economic Development

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Washington State is still feeling the effects of the worst and most enduring economic downturn since the Great Depression. The state’s economy has recovered substantially with the Puget Sound Region anchoring growth in employment in several key sectors. Although the state and national economy have recovered substantially, the economic environment that planners work within has fundamentally changed. For example, wages in the United States have remained flat and while unemployment has decreased substantially, long term unemployment remains an issue across the country.
Economic Development Opportunities

The Northwest is blessed with natural resources, strong trade relationships and a tradition of innovation and entrepreneurship. Planners and allied professionals can help to leverage these attributes by working to empower local economic initiatives, promoting tools that incentivize local business growth, and improving a community’s ability to retain and attract family-wage employers, visitors, and residents.

Actions to Address Economic Development

• Strengthen Peer and Community Support Networks for Businesses
• Retain and Attract Key Firms and Industry Clusters
• Fill Empty Storefronts and Revitalize Vacant Commercial Centers
• Align Development Regulations with the Needs of Modern Users
• Harness Your Comprehensive to Anchor an Economic Development Strategy