



RECOMPETE
WASHINGTON

RECOMPETE INFORMATION GUIDE

FALL 2026



OVERVIEW

Recompete is a collaborative effort to grow the economy of the North Olympic Peninsula by connecting people to good local jobs and creating the conditions for long-term economic growth. This work brings together a coalition of partners across Clallam and Jefferson Counties around a shared goal: building a stronger, more resilient regional economy.

This information guide provides context for understanding Recompete’s origins, the coalition’s structure and strategies, and how partners are working together to advance this goal. Developed by the Governance team with support from Project Leads, the guide also explains how Recompete evaluates progress and adapts its strategies to meet the needs of our communities.

This guide is not a data report. Rather, it is intended to complement future outcome reports by providing a broader understanding of the work behind the numbers. **Our next comprehensive data report covering the first two full years of the grant period will be released in January 2027.** Recompete is a complex, multi-partner federal investment and understanding its progress requires context about how the coalition works, how funding is structured, and how results will be measured.

Together, this guide and all future reports reflect our commitment to transparency, shared learning, and community partnership as Recompete moves forward.

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RECOMPETE

OUR PURPOSE & FOUNDATION

Recompete is an economic development project that aims to create and connect individuals to living-wage jobs in Clallam and Jefferson Counties. The project is an investment in our community built on strategies that can help reverse a decades-long economic decline.

To create better economic conditions in regions like ours, the federal government created the Recompete Pilot Program. A local coalition of **cross-sector partners united** to apply for this funding. **Out of 565 applications nationwide, our region is one of only six communities selected for this award.**

These coalition partners include local governments, Tribal Nations, economic development councils, ports, educational institutions, transit providers, nonprofit organizations, and more. **We are working together to remove barriers to employment through short-term supports, provide in-demand job skills training, and invest in infrastructure that will lead to job growth and economic resilience.**

QUICK FACTS



Funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

The federal government created Recompete to invest in economically distressed regions like ours.

Award Period - 5 Years



The grant period is five years: October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2029.

\$35.6 Million Award



Our Recompete coalition collectively received \$35.6 million to support our strategies.

How We Define a Good Job



Based on a local analysis of the cost of living in our region, our target wage for a good job is \$26/hour + benefits.

Our Ultimate Goal



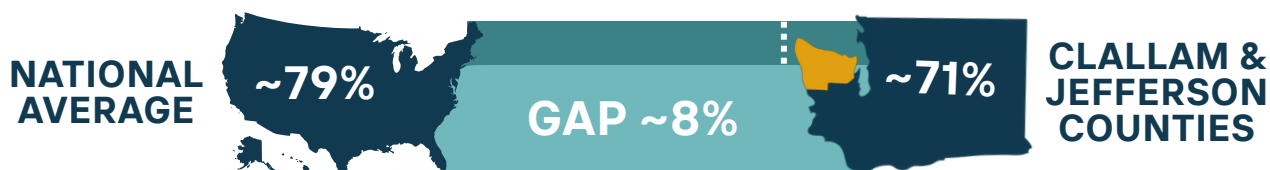
We aim to connect individuals to good local jobs by providing skills, support, and new career pathways.

PRIME-AGE EMPLOYMENT GAP

What is the prime-age employment gap?

Recompete focuses on a key indicator of economic distress called the prime-age employment gap (PAEG). This metric looks at the number of individuals ages 25-54 who are in the workforce locally compared to nationally.

PRIME-AGE EMPLOYMENT RATE



In 2023 when our coalition applied for funding, the national average of prime-age individuals in the workforce was ~79%, compared to ~71% in Clallam & Jefferson Counties. **This difference of ~8% is our prime-age employment gap.***

Recompete aims to reduce this gap by providing individuals with the skills, support, and opportunities to connect to a good local job.

Why is this important?

This metric is a better indicator of economic distress than the overall unemployment rate because it also captures those who have disconnected from the workforce, not just those who are unemployed. If individuals in their prime employment years are largely out of the workforce, this indicates structural barriers to employment such as a lack of reliable childcare and transportation, as well as a need for more career pathways.

When a region falls below the national average on prime-age employment, poverty emerges. That's why the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) created this project as a one-time investment to pull regions out of persistent poverty.

While this age group is the focus of our efforts, many of our programs serve anyone. The project's success will also benefit everyone in the region. Creating better employment opportunities for prime-age individuals is key to unlocking better economic conditions for the entire region.

A stronger economy means more high-wage jobs, stronger families, thriving local businesses, and a better quality of life for all who call the North Olympic Peninsula home.

**Throughout this guide, prime-age individuals are defined as those age 25-54 who are unemployed or disconnected from the workforce. The EDA calculated our 8% PAEG using five-year ACS census data ending in 2021.*

CORE STRATEGIES

To reduce the prime-age employment gap, Recompete partners are implementing the following strategies, which generally fall into two categories:

PROGRAMS that connect individuals to jobs.

These programs provide individuals with the skills and support to meet their employment goals.

PROJECTS that create jobs or the conditions for economic growth.

These projects invest in key industries and infrastructure that will allow for new business operations or current businesses to expand.

OUR CORE STRATEGIES



Governance

Support strategic coalition collaboration, data collection, and outreach efforts.



Workforce training

Deliver industry-specific training opportunities with short-term paths to good jobs.



Barrier removal

Remove barriers to employment by providing tailored one-on-one assistance, connecting individuals to wraparound services including childcare, transportation, basic needs, tuition support, and more.



Investment in distressed remote & rural regions

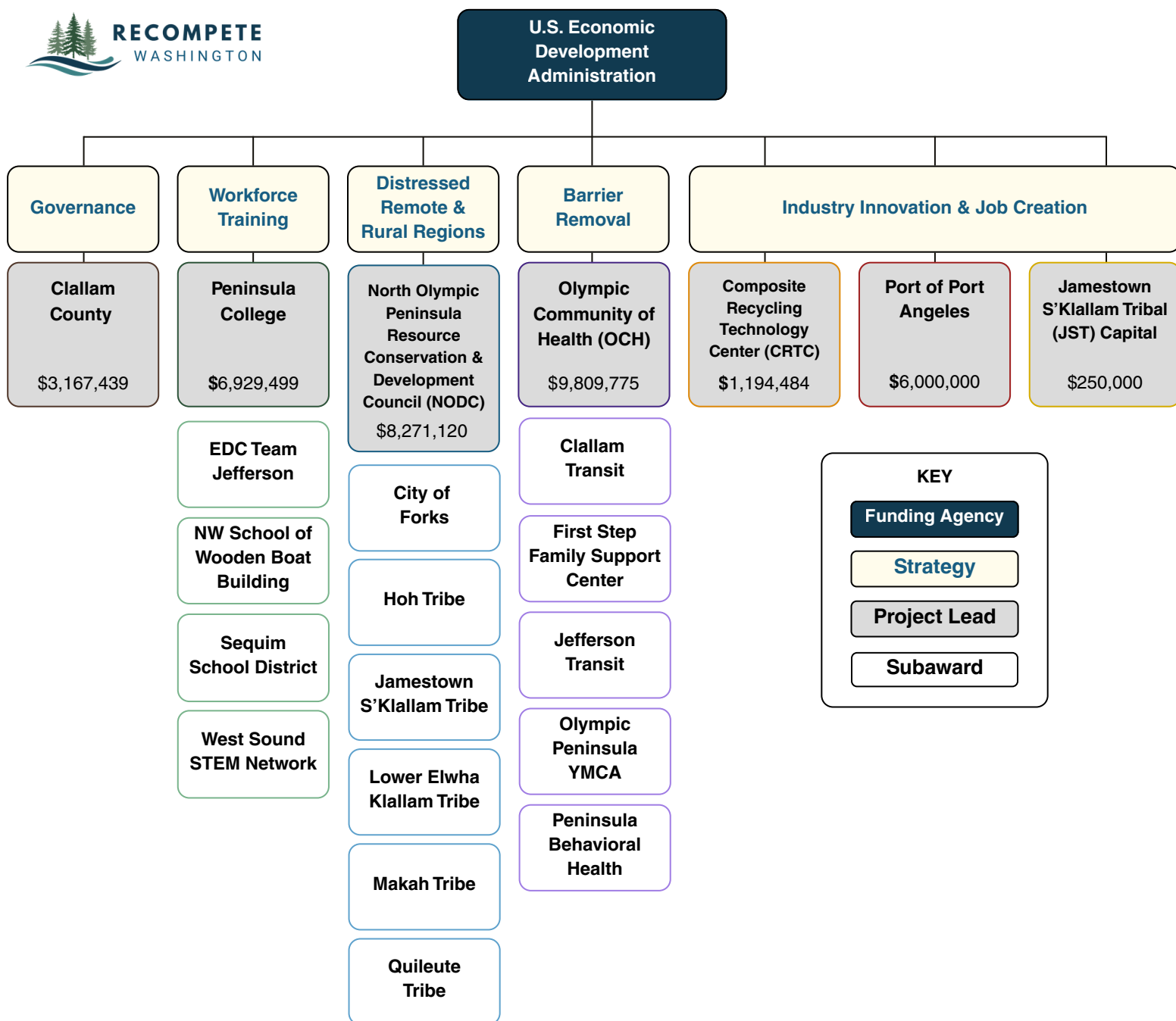
Support capacity building, barrier removal, job creation, infrastructure, and economic development in remote areas of the region such as the West End, South Jefferson County and five Tribal Nations.



Industry innovation & job creation

Investment in the natural resources, maritime, construction, and manufacturing industries to create new jobs & economic resilience.

COALITION STRUCTURE



Important note about the coalition structure



Each Project Lead (in gray) holds its own contract with the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Some Project Leads distribute funds to Subawards (in white) that are also implementing Recompete programs. These are shown in no particular order and there is no hierarchy among Subawards. Many organizations are working across multiple strategies.

Funding structure

Understanding Federal Grants

Federal grants are legally binding agreements. The EDA agrees to provide funding for approved projects, and the grantee agrees to use the funds as outlined in their Scope of Work and budget.

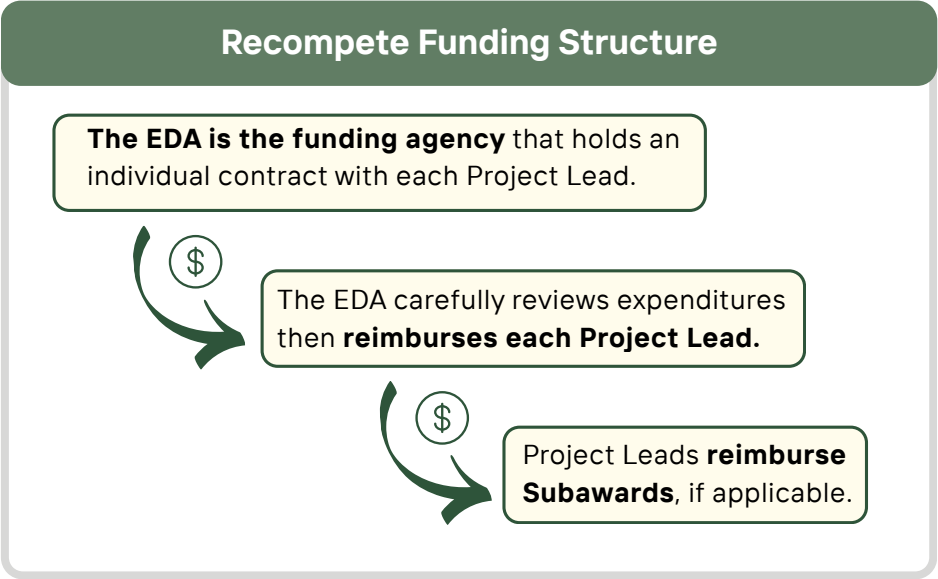
The EDA evaluated our original proposal in 2023 and determined which projects would be funded and in what amount. Some of our proposed projects did not receive funding.

How does the funding flow?

In most cases, **Recompete funds are distributed on a reimbursement basis**. No entity received a lump sum when we were awarded the grant. Each entity runs their programs or purchases supplies according to their contract. The EDA then reimburses them after reviewing the invoice and supporting documents (such as receipts, payroll records, etc.) to ensure all costs are allowable and in their approved budget.

In our Recompete coalition, seven Project Leads are each individually contracted with the EDA for the following award amounts. **The total award for our coalition is \$35.6 million over five years, but no single entity holds the full \$35.6 million.**

Project Lead	Award
Olympic Community of Health (OCH)	\$9,809,775
North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council (NODC)	\$8,271,120
Peninsula College	\$6,929,499
Port of Port Angeles	\$6,000,000
Clallam County	\$3,167,439
Composite Recycling Technology Center (CRTC)	\$1,194,484
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal (JST) Capital	\$250,000
Total	\$35,622,317



**KEY INFO**

Clallam County does not distribute Recompete funding to other partners or determine how much they receive. All funds are administered at the federal level.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES JOB SEEKERS



If you live in Clallam or Jefferson County, Recompete can help you access resources and build the skills it takes to get a living-wage local job! **So, how can we help?**

GET **SUPPORT** ON YOUR PATH TO A GOOD JOB

Finding help to achieve your goals can feel overwhelming. We're here to help.

We can help connect you to services that remove barriers to meeting your employment goals.

GET STARTED

OLYMPIC CONNECT

To refer someone or get started, call 360-301-8252 or visit www.olympicconnect.org/get-started

Olympic Connect is free and available to anyone. Some resources and services may have eligibility requirements and associated costs.



CHILDCARE

Support with the cost of childcare



TRANSPORTATION

Public transit education, car repairs, fuel & more



BASIC NEEDS

Concrete goods such as laundry, clothing, personal hygiene & more



TUITION, FEES & SUPPLIES

Financial assistance for short-term trainings/programs



RESOURCE NAVIGATION

Personalized assistance navigating local resources to meet your unique needs



LEARN **SKILLS** TO ADVANCE YOUR CAREER

Enroll in a short-term training course for in-demand careers so you can learn specialized skills that local employers are looking for. **Tuition assistance may be available!**

Do you live in a remote region of the North Olympic Peninsula? **Mobile education may be coming your way so you can learn closer to home!**



To learn about Peninsula College Mobile Programs, visit pencol.edu/mobile or reach out to mobile@pencol.edu.

Schedule an appointment with Peninsula College Outreach through the link above to discuss your options for programs and financial aid.



GET STARTED

EMPLOYERS & ENTREPRENEURS

Owning and operating a business on the North Olympic Peninsula comes with challenges - and rewards! Contributing to the local economy and the place you call home is something to be proud of. Recompete partners aim to support entrepreneurs and create the conditions for local businesses to thrive. **Here's how we can serve you:**



Workforce Training

Our mobile classrooms can come directly to your jobsite to upskill staff with customizable training tailored to your needs.

Business Loans

For small and start-up businesses that don't qualify for traditional financing, there may be options for you to borrow and build!



Business Advising

Trained local advisors who are familiar with our region's economy can help your small business adapt, scale, and sustain long-term growth. Receive up to 5 sessions at no cost to you.

Staff Support Services

We can help your staff overcome barriers so they can succeed in your workplace. Increase retention by connecting your team with services like childcare and transportation assistance.



Industry Innovation & Growth

If you're a larger employer who's interested in expanding or moving into the area, we can help you maximize your potential.

Email info@recompetewa.org to start the conversation.

HOW TO CONNECT

Staff Support Services

Olympic Connect
www.olympicconnect.org
360-301-8252

Business Loans

JST Capital
www.jamestowncapital.org
360-460-6890

Business Advising

EDC Team Jefferson
www.edcteamjefferson.org
360-379-4693

Workforce Training

Peninsula College
Mobile Training: www.pencol.edu/mobile or mobile@pencol.edu
Customized Training: community@pencol.edu
360-417-5683





Effective coalitions have strong backbone organizations to guide strategy, unify efforts, and measure impact. That's why the EDA requires all Recompete coalitions to have a governance structure.

AWARD AMOUNT
\$3,167,439

The Governance team supports core functions for the coalition:

STRATEGY & STRUCTURE

Recompete brings together about 30 cross-sector partners working towards a unified goal. This is the first time this expansive group of partners has come together under one umbrella to strengthen the economy of our region.

Governance acts as the central infrastructure that coordinates, supports, and guides our coalition's work. Without this essential structure, our work would be siloed, not as impactful, and less likely to be sustainable.

By maintaining a bird's-eye view, Governance guides the strategy of our coalition's work by ensuring we are all aligned, that efforts are not duplicated, and that systems are integrated to best meet the needs of our community.

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

The Governance team leads the coalition's communications efforts to share progress and updates, and to connect individuals and businesses in the community with Recompete programs. The team also creates new opportunities for partnership in the broader community, expanding our reach and finding new connections that support our goals.

DATA & DEVELOPMENT

Governance collects data on behalf of the coalition, which is reported to the EDA and shared with the public in January and June of each year. The Governance team leads efforts to analyze and learn from our data to understand our impact and inform our strategies. Development involves using our data to understand the resources it would take to sustain our most effective programs.

BEYOND RECOMPETE

Planning for the future beyond the five-year grant period is a core function of the Governance team. Lessons from economic development and workforce initiatives across the country show that sustainability planning needs to start early. The team is already exploring models to continue the most effective strategies beyond the grant period, including long-term systems, partnerships, and additional funding sources that can help more people connect with good local jobs.

BARRIER REMOVAL



These services help remove barriers to employment by providing tailored one-on-one assistance, connecting individuals to wraparound services including childcare, transportation, basic needs, tuition support, and more.

AWARD AMOUNT
\$9,809,775

PROJECT LEAD

Olympic Community of Health (OCH)

Olympic Connect is a service of OCH, and a Community Care Hub of Washington working to address social needs. As a unified network of partners, Olympic Connect works to connect people to the support they need to thrive. Recompete funds additional resources and services that remove barriers individuals experience to obtaining good jobs.

SUBAWARDS

Clallam Transit & Jefferson Transit

Address transportation barriers for job seekers.

First Step Family Support Center

Expand Family Resource Centers and teach financial literacy skills to participants.

Olympic Peninsula YMCA

Provide direct financial support to job seekers for most needed resources such as childcare and basic needs.

Peninsula Behavioral Health

Provide support for employers to create trauma-informed workplaces in Clallam County.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

These programs are helping community members now. Here are a few examples of real individuals who have obtained good jobs through Recompete programs.

A community member in Clallam Bay received short-term tuition assistance to complete their Certified Nursing Assistant certification. They were employed in Forks, but needed transmission repair on their vehicle to get to work. The Employment Support Program paid for their car repair and they are now employed.

A job seeker in Sequim received fuel support to get to an interview as a medical paratransit driver. They secured the job at \$27/hour with benefits, and received fuel, laundry, vouchers, and hygiene supplies until their first paycheck.

A community member in Port Townsend was seeking a job after six months unemployed. To bridge the gap to employment, they received assistance with hygiene supplies, auto repair, and fuel to get to interviews. They secured a job at \$25/hour, with a recent update of earning \$27/hour.

ADDITIONAL WRAPAROUND SUPPORTS

In addition to OCH and these Subawards, barrier removal services are woven into other Recompete partnerships. For example, Peninsula College offers students supportive navigation, and Recompete's Tribal partners provide services to support their community members to employment or job skills training.

WORKFORCE TRAINING



Recompete is equipping individuals with the skills they need for in-demand jobs, with a focus on short-term paths to success. These programs also build capacity for local employers and entrepreneurs through custom training and advising. Workforce partners are creating the conditions for our economy to thrive.

**AWARD
AMOUNT**
\$6,929,499

PROJECT LEAD

Peninsula College

Peninsula College delivers new programs and equipment that expand access to workforce training in welding, marine technology, natural resources, and transportation. These programs also bring mobile education to our most remote regions.

SUBAWARDS

EDC Team Jefferson

Workforce development backbone in Jefferson County and supporting small businesses by training business advisors.

NW School of Wooden Boat Building

Increase capacity with additional equipment, staff, and students.

Sequim School District

Purchase virtual reality technology for transportation-related training and certification.

West Sound STEM Network

Offer career-related learning experiences and facilitate student and employer connections.

OUR VISION FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

Progress updates and details about our future goals.

Mobile Classrooms Spread Opportunity Far & Wide

Ongoing Effort & Future Goals

Community members in more remote regions of the Peninsula will have access to skilled trades training in their own communities for the first time. With Peninsula College's new Mobile Training Programs, the commute to classes will decrease from over an hour each way to Port Angeles to just a few minutes. With these new skills, individuals can be hired with a good wage and have a clear path for career progression.

Workforce Training Model Benefits Employers & Employees - Ongoing Effort & Future Goals

A local employer has an employee they'd like to promote to a position that requires a commercial driver's license (CDL), but they don't have the \$200+ for the training. The employee can work together with Recompete's Employment Support Program to get financial assistance for the licensing and use the new Recompete-funded CDL simulator to practice driving. After training, the employee will be licensed and ready for the promotion. With Recompete, employers have new resources to upskill and retain employees, and newly trained employees have the opportunity to earn higher wages to improve their quality of life and financial stability.

REMOTE & RURAL REGIONS



Recompete is investing in the most distressed remote and rural regions of the Peninsula by creating new long-term infrastructure for job creation and delivering resources to support an isolated workforce.

AWARD AMOUNT
\$8,271,120

PROJECT LEAD

North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council (NODC)

NODC provides expert technical assistance to the most remote and rural communities and Tribes, helping them create jobs, expand opportunity, and build sustainable and innovative economies.

SUBAWARDS

Sovereign Tribal Nations

Hoh Tribe

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Makah Tribe

Quileute Tribe

Increase economic development capacity to improve infrastructure, grow Tribal enterprises and drive job creation. Support job seekers in receiving the services and training they need to gain a good job.

City of Forks

Catalyze existing economic development with new dedicated staff and Industrial Park improvements.

OUR VISION FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

Progress updates and details about our future goals.

Staff Dedicated to Industry Expansion

Current Progress Update

The City of Forks has been able to support industry and job growth by hiring a Community & Economic Development Assistant. This position is primarily funded by Recompete and is focused on recruiting new businesses and assisting existing businesses with expansion at properties like the industrial park. New business operations like Riverside Forest Products U.S., which has created 30+ new high-wage, private-sector jobs in its first round of hiring, are made possible in part by devoted staff capacity from the city.

Increased Economic Development Capacity Sparks Job Creation & Industry Investment

Emerging Strategy Highlight - Ongoing Efforts

Tribal Nations are identifying, investing in, and implementing efforts to create long-term, sustainable job growth. This includes development and expansion of enterprises to create good jobs for Tribal citizens and community members as well as projects that improve industrial infrastructure, allowing for new business development or existing business expansion that will benefit the region for decades to come. Tribal community members seeking employment or workforce training will also have access to new training, support services, and connections to Recompete resources along their way to good jobs like these.

JOB CREATION & INDUSTRY INNOVATION

Recompete is investing in the natural resources, maritime, and manufacturing industries to create new jobs. In addition, infrastructure investments create the conditions for long-term economic resilience.

AWARD: \$6,000,000

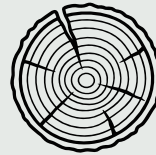
PROJECT LEAD

Port of Port Angeles



The North Olympic Peninsula Barging Network is a Recompete initiative led by the Port of Port Angeles aimed at filling gaps in our area's freight transportation network, spurring good job creation, and protecting existing economic infrastructure in our most underserved communities. A more resilient transportation network on our marine highway also leads to lower greenhouse gas emissions and stronger connections with outside markets.

The Port has purchased the first of three new barges. Each barge is specialized to **strengthen our regional freight network by securing new cargo customers, lowering costs and expanding markets for existing customers, and creating new jobs in the maritime industry.**



AWARD: \$1,194,484

PROJECT LEAD

Composite Recycling Technology Center (CRTC)

Through the use of a thermal modification unit, CRTC applies advanced technology to turn the region's abundant natural resources into in-demand building materials. Through Recompete, CRTC is purchasing an additional unit to increase capacity and create new jobs. One way these materials will be used is to build local, affordable housing, which is in short supply in our region, compounding economic strain. The raw materials CRTC uses to make their products come from underutilized coastal western hemlock, which the Makah Tribe sustainably harvests and mills. With increased demand for hemlock, the Makah Tribe also benefits from increased business, improving the economy of the region's westernmost communities.

CRTC anticipates receiving the unit later in the fall of 2026 and having it operational by the end of the year. **To meet increased demand, CRTC anticipates creating 45 new skilled manufacturing jobs by 2030, plus ~30 indirect and induced jobs.**

PROJECT LEAD JST Capital

AWARD AMOUNT
\$250,000



Local small businesses are the backbone of our economy, yet some entrepreneurs have unique needs or barriers to qualifying for traditional financing. For these businesses that want to build their capacity, or for entrepreneurs who want to start a business, JST Capital offers fast local approvals, flexible terms, and competitive interest rates. When each loan is paid off, those funds are available for the next customer. **The \$250,000 loan fund will stay in our community after Recompete's grant period closes, providing long-term benefits.** The fund is already serving the community, helping a new, locally owned small business with start-up costs.

WHAT'S NEXT - EVALUATING & LEARNING

THE NATURE OF A PILOT PROGRAM



From the very beginning, the EDA defined Recompete as a pilot program. So, what does this mean?

This means we are trying something new.

We are implementing strategies that have never been tried before to improve the economy of the North Olympic Peninsula. To find the strategies that work best, there is some flexibility in Recompete activities. **The EDA wants us to succeed and spend the funds wisely and strategically.** With the EDA's oversight and approval, Project Leads can make award modifications to course-correct and steer us towards our primary goal of creating and connecting people to living-wage jobs in Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

Evaluating, learning, and adapting are at our core. To ensure that this investment best meets the needs of our community, some activities may change over time.



DATA REPORTING TIMELINE

Program flexibility is guided by ongoing evaluation, learning, and analysis of data and program outcomes.

We collect and compile data twice a year. **In January 2027, we will be releasing our Year Two Data Report** in a more robust format that will demonstrate our impact, lessons learned, and upcoming goals.

Moving forward, we will be releasing an **annual report each January, with a shorter midway report each June.**

In the meantime, the best way to stay updated on how we're responding to community needs and making an impact is to connect with us through our newsletter or social media.

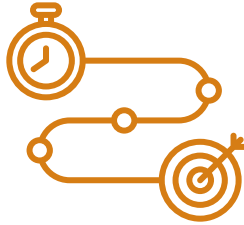
Curious to know even more about what makes Recompete unique and the nature of the pilot program? See [this article by the Brookings Institution](#) that gives more context. (Published September 1, 2023)

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

While some Recompete efforts have been quicker to start up than others, every activity is measured against a set of key metrics.

PROGRAMS connect individuals to jobs.

Most programs are available and making an impact now.



PROJECTS create jobs or the conditions for economic growth.

Recompete projects are in progress, working on a longer timeline.

METRICS WE USE TO MEASURE OUR PROGRESS

- # of individuals enrolled in workforce and barrier removal programs
- # of these individuals who report job placement or increased income as a result of participation
- # of local businesses receiving support like business advising, loans, and training for their staff

- # of new jobs created directly from Recompete efforts
- Long-term growth in key industries like forest products, maritime, welding, and manufacturing
- Labor force participation rates in Clallam & Jefferson Counties

The data sets used to measure these project impacts have a lag time of one or more years, but over time these will be the best indicators that Recompete is making lasting improvements to the economy of our region.

WHEN CAN WE EXPECT TO SEE RESULTS?



Recompete **programs** are up and running, and you can read early success stories on page 10. Recompete **projects** take longer to start up and show results. This is expected, as they involve purchasing large equipment, improving infrastructure, and expanding economic development capacity to create better economic conditions. With this in mind, we anticipate job creation numbers to be low in the first few years of the grant period. **These projects are designed to reverse a decades-long economic decline — not to create a temporary quick fix, but to strengthen our industries into a future-ready model that will create better economic conditions for generations to come.**

STAY CONNECTED

Recompete Washington partners are working together to create a stronger economy that provides more high-wage jobs, stronger families, thriving local businesses, and a better quality of life for all who call the North Olympic Peninsula home.

**Stay updated on our current progress,
connect to resources, and learn more.**

Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter
Follow on Facebook, Instagram & LinkedIn
Visit our website
Send us a message

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