

NCSL Opportunities for Working Families Meeting State Action Plans

Washington

Years of Participation: 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

2011 ACTION PLAN

Team Members

Representative Sherry Appleton
Senator Maralyn Chase
Senator Steve Conway
Representative Jeannie Darneille
Representative Tami Green
Representative Mark Hargrove
Representative Chris Reykdal

Facilitator: Bruce Feustel

Priority Issues

- Asset Building (strong families = strong communities)
- Workforce training Examination (Businesses need a skilled workforce)
- Support for Business/Non-profits (Help businesses/non-profits to start up or expand)

Action Items, Next Steps, and Responsibilities

1. Asset Building (Strong families = strong communities) – Jeannie/Sherry
 - a. Complete 2010 Action Items:
 - i. Children’s Story – Steve
-Information gathering
 - ii. Earned Income Tax Credit outreach – Steve
 - a. Engage the Asset Building Coalition to take steps on their 2011 items
 - a. Building resources to Poverty (food)
-Kaiser, model, investing
-Backpacking - private enterprise, transportation
2. Workforce training Examination (Businesses need a skilled workforce)
 - a. Detailed examination of the Workforce Investment Act dollars
 - i. Key question: How does the money flow to the training providers?
 - ii. National Standard: 40% of funds to training? Is Washington there?
 - b. Possible WSIPP study to examine the overall effectiveness of the workforce development system and/or some of the various workforce training programs in the State: State funded WIA, Perkins, etc.

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- c. Consider SB 5809 as framework to get the dialogue started (or get more aggressive)
3. Support for Business/Non-profits (Help businesses/non-profits to start up or expand)
 - a. Make more efficient the business permitting process
 - b. Consider State Bank legislation to get more small business lending
 - c. Develop micro-business enterprise strategies.
 - d. Look at Maryland law EITC
4. Invite Steve Rothchild to the Ways and Means

Process Actions:

- Asset Building (Strong families = strong communities)
- Workforce training Examination (Businesses need a skilled workforce)
- Support for Business/Non-profits (Help businesses/non-profits to start up or expand)
- Meet as team back home over the Summer and Fall
- Engage community/business partners
- Engage legislative colleagues back home
- Brief House and Senate Leadership on strategies (in Fall)
- Engage Working Families Caucus
- Steve Rothschild before Ways and Means committee
- Asset building – connection with our partners
- Department of Financial Institute – Connections
- Gather information on key issues
- Incorporate staff - Toni

Additional Notes

Process/Ground Rules

- What are our ongoing projects and what do we want to add/prioritize?
- Discussion of investor coalition/state economic strategy
- Transparent
- Focus on interests and outcomes
- Team dynamic we can carry forward
- 2008 was dynamic year for participation because there was another meeting at the same time
- Identify top 3 issues facing working WA families

Issues facing WA working families:

- Access to education limits access to jobs—leads to wage deflation
- Jobs!!!
- Access to training!!
- Surviving recession/asset-building/housing/food banks (who is accessing)
- People that work cannot meet their basic needs

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- Child care costs
- Training/advancement out of reach
- Health insurance affordability
- Access to transportation
- Social outcomes
- Tools for financial success-banking, building own safety net
- Expectation of long term education
- Financial literacy
- Housing costs
- Creating small business in the trade sector, particularly products for export
- Grow/focus on 2nd tier businesses
- Manufacturing in WA
- Look at policies that encourage investments and jobs abroad

Connection Points:

- What is in our control?
- What do we do with families?
- Aerospace industry unique
- Workforce training focus
- Conditions that make creating jobs feasible
- Uncovering where federal dollars (map the universe) are going
 - state is primarily a pass-through
- Connecting to best practices in other states
 - e.g. "Alamo schools" in TX
- TANF, Child Care, Transportation, Health Care
 - allow financial education to be work activity; let mothers stay home with infants 1-year+

Historical Overview of this training:

- IA and WA are superstars
- Started with IDA, microenterprise; started doing research on asset building coalition
- Asset building coalition took off! It's only statewide asset building coalition
- High consumer debt and foreclosure rate in WA
- Expand IDA for homeownership, higher education, small businesses
- Asset building coalition focuses on EITC, mortgage issues
 - each local coalition can figure out what they need

Top Priorities to build on:

- Learn about asset building coalitions
- Children of the recession—social outcomes
 - What happens to kids when home forecloses?
 - CT model; WA identified 4 cities implemented in Oct. 2011
 - Everett, Walawala, Spokane, Tacoma
- Workforce development and training
- Capture cost-savings in fiscal notes (long-term)
- Creating the conditions for job-growth

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What's still on the Table?

- Asset building coalition's 2011 priorities
 - IDAs
 - preserve funding for ABCs
 - Mortgage protection
 - Working families tax rebate → suspended
- Children in the recession work plan
 - Walawala, Tacoma, Spokane, Everett have invited community forum
- SB5809-Regional workforce training
- WIA is a black box
- Better accountability on the local level for workforce boards
- Bill to have WISA look at all these issues
 - Job creating conditions ← → skill training
- figuring out the disconnect between workforce training and business' needs
- get arms around workforce training programs

Proposed Theme: legislators trying to create the conditions for job creation

- 2 way problem-no jobs but folks need to be trained
 1. Sustainable/self-sufficient families
 2. Workers trained
 3. encourage businesses to partner with workforce training
- 1st and 2nd stage businesses
- legislative role for workforce training
 - accountability
- access to midlevel skill level training critical
- paradigm shift in nonprofits to go beyond funder's goals e.g. Goodwill
 - incentivize nonprofits
- need infrastructure to let patent holders realize dreams
- access to capital; lack of liquidity

Action Items:

- appropriate workforce development
- look at economic gardening
 - build on viable businesses in community
- explore getting local businesses access to capital
- figure out how to simplify processes e.g. applications
- talk to small businesses to see what would help them
- cultivate nonprofits

FINAL ACTION ITEMS: Creating the Conditions for Job Growth

1. *Asset Building*
2. *Workforce training examination/accountability*
3. *Support for business/NP*

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4. *Steve Rothschild*