

# Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (3/08)

Here is information about some of the programs at CTED that might help in your downtown revitalization efforts.

## **Washington State Main Street™ Program (360-725-4056)**

The Washington State Main Street Program (WSMSP) provides a range of services and assistance to help communities throughout the state revitalize the economy, appearance, and image of their traditional business districts. It uses the successful Main Street™ model developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as its foundation for assistance. This approach emphasizes four critical areas of revitalization: *organization* helps everyone work towards the same goals and maximizes involvement of public and private leaders within the community; *promotion* brings people back downtown by helping to attract visitors, shoppers, and investors; *design* enhances a district's appearance and pedestrian amenities while preserving its historic features; and *economic restructuring* stimulates business development and helps strengthen the district's economic base.

The WSMSP provides guidance to individuals and organizations interested in downtown revitalization including access to information and help in getting organized. It also serves as a general clearinghouse for the latest tools and techniques in downtown development. General information, project development assistance information, and audio-visual and resource materials are also available. [[www.downtown.wa.gov](http://www.downtown.wa.gov)]

## **Tourism Development (360-725-4100)**

The Washington State Tourism Office increases awareness of Washington as a travel destination, supports local tourism-based organizations, and encourages potential visitors to visit our state's tourism website. [[www.experiencewa.com](http://www.experiencewa.com)]

The website provides visitors with detailed information on a variety of community attractions and activities. It also features an interactive map to help plan trips. Community-based tourism organizations can contact the Tourism Office online or by phone to request additions or changes to the website regarding key attractions in their community. Tourism-related businesses are listed on the website at no charge and may purchase enhanced direct business links to attract visitors.

The Tourism Office maintains a separate industry website with updated consumer research information, visitor profiles, economic impact data, information on tourism workshops, and other activities to help communities and businesses target their marketing efforts.

[[www.experiencewa.com/industry](http://www.experiencewa.com/industry)]

### **Regional Services (360-725-4057)**

The Regional Services Unit offers a framework for innovative marketing, site development, and strategic service delivery to positively impact business attraction, retention, expansion projects, and partnerships. This service is provided to local governmental jurisdictions and economic development organizations and includes financial and technical assistance to both businesses and communities. Regional service coordinators are available to work with businesses to review project proposals, determine financing alternatives, design a financing structure, prepare and assemble applications, and present projects to appropriate lending authorities. [[www.cted.wa.gov/site/97/default.aspx](http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/97/default.aspx)]

Information about business opportunities is available at the “Choose Washington” website. [[www.choosewashington.com](http://www.choosewashington.com)]

### **Growth Management Services (360-725-3000)**

Growth Management Services (GMS) offers financial and technical assistance to local governments for planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA). GMS works with jurisdictions to develop comprehensive plans and development regulations to implement their community vision. GMS also provides assistance in planning for downtown vitality, economic development, concentrated growth, housing, capital facilities and utilities, infill and redevelopment, neighborhood compatibility, multi-modal transportation, open space and parks, urban design, historic preservation, and other topics.

The *Short Course on Local Planning*, co-sponsored by CTED and the Planning Association of Washington, is a free workshop offered for planning commissioners, local officials, staff, and interested citizens. It can be scheduled in local communities as a “Basic 101” training or can be customized to meet local priorities. GMS also produces guidebooks, technical bulletins, and publications including “About Growth,” an online quarterly newsletter on growth management planning in Washington State. [[www.cted.wa.gov/growth](http://www.cted.wa.gov/growth)]

### **Education and Training (360-725-4031)**

The Education and Training Program offers professional development services for economic development practitioners. Workshops, seminars, and conferences are coordinated in partnership with local economic development councils and non-profit associations. Economic development subjects include business attraction and retention, marketing, financing, planning, and international trade. The Education and Training Program also has numerous award-winning publications available to assist practitioners in delivering services to communities. [[www.cted.wa.gov/ed/et](http://www.cted.wa.gov/ed/et)]

### **Rural Opportunity Fund (360-725-4041)**

The Rural Opportunity Fund is a flexible grant program to help communities prepare for high-value development opportunities. Funds can be used to assist rural communities and tribes with a range of strategic planning and pre-construction activities that have economic development purposes and outcomes. Local match varies and is determined on a case-by-case basis.

**Film and Video (206-256-6151)**

The Washington State Film Office provides a leadership role in marketing and facilitating feature film, television, and commercial production in Washington State. The Film Office helps local and out of state production companies with their pre-production needs including location scouting and permitting, and acts as a liaison between production companies, businesses, and government agencies. The Film Office maintains an extensive on-line library of statewide locations, crew and vendor lists, and educational resources for communities including a free two-hour "Film Fundamentals" workshop on how to work with production companies and develop filming guidelines. [[www.FilmWashington.com](http://www.FilmWashington.com)]

**Brownfields Coalition (360-725-4045)**

The Brownfields Coalition helps local governments, property owners, developers, city planners, and others navigate the complicated world of redeveloping brownfields. These properties are hard to build on and redevelop because they are polluted with hazardous substances or contaminants. Old factories, industrial areas, waterfronts, drycleaners, gas stations, landfills, and rail yards are common brownfield sites. The Brownfields Coalition makes low-interest loans to local governments and property owners to clean up brownfields, links loan recipients with other brownfields programs for assessment help, and streamlines the process of cleanup and redevelopment by collaborating with federal, state, and local agencies. [[www.cted.wa.gov/brownfields](http://www.cted.wa.gov/brownfields)]

**Community Development Block Grant Program (360-725-3020)**

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provides grants for housing rehabilitation, economic development, infrastructure, community facilities, planning, and public services projects. Eligible applicants are cities and towns with populations less than 50,000, or counties with populations less than 200,000. Applicants must be in a non-entitlement jurisdiction and are not participating in a HUD Urban County Entitlement Consortium. Applicants may submit one request per fund each program year:

*General Purpose Grants* are available annually through a competitive application process to assist non-entitlement cities, towns, and counties in carrying out significant community and economic development projects principally benefiting low- and moderate-income persons.

*Planning-Only Grants* provide support to eligible small communities and rural counties in carrying out planning activities that lead to the implementation of priority projects principally benefiting low- and moderate-income persons.

[[www.cted.wa.gov/site/806/default.aspx](http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/806/default.aspx)]

**Child Care Advantages Program/Child Care Facility Fund (360-725-4045)**

The Child Care Advantages Program provides technical assistance to help businesses develop child care facilities for their employees. The program also provides qualified businesses with an opportunity to apply for direct loans and grants to start or expand child care facilities through the Child Care Facility Fund. [[www.cted.wa.gov/ccf](http://www.cted.wa.gov/ccf)]

**Community Economic Revitalization Board (360-725-4058)**

CERB is the state's economic development infrastructure program. It supports business and industrial job growth in partnership primarily with rural communities. CERB provides low-interest loans and sometimes grants to help finance public facility projects needed for private sector expansion and job creation. Eligible entities include local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, port districts, special purpose districts (e.g., public utility districts), municipal corporations, and quasi-municipal corporations with economic development purposes (e.g., public development authorities). Types of eligible public projects include bridges, roads, domestic and industrial water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, railroad spurs, telecommunications, electricity, natural gas, general purpose industrial buildings, and port facilities. Pre-development and feasibility studies are eligible in specific areas of the state.

[[www.cted.wa.gov/cerb](http://www.cted.wa.gov/cerb)]

**Rural Washington Loan Fund (360-725-4057)**

The Washington State Rural Washington Loan Fund (RWLF) provides gap financing for businesses to create new jobs or retain existing jobs, particularly for lower-income persons. Only businesses in non-entitlement areas of the state are eligible for these loans (additional restrictions apply). Loans are available for the acquisition, engineering, improvement, rehabilitation, construction, operation, or maintenance of any property, real or personal, that is used or is suitable for use by an economic enterprise. Priority is given to timber-dependent and distressed area projects. Projects can include such things as tourism facilities and retail or service enterprises that expand a community's economic base rather than redistribute the existing base, however the RWLF may not assist in developing shopping malls. The maximum loan amount is \$1,000,000.

# Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (3/08)

Here is information about some of the programs at DAHP that might help in your downtown revitalization efforts.

The *Certified Local Government* (CLG) designation can be awarded to local governments that establish a historic preservation program meeting federal and state standards. By gaining CLG status, a community can encourage, develop, and maintain their local preservation efforts in coordination with local development plans. In addition, CLGs may apply for special grants from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), obtain specialized technical assistance and training, participate in the National Register nomination process, and assist with statewide preservation programs and planning.

The *Historic Preservation Tax Certification Program* is one of the most useful incentives for encouraging preservation of our state's historic resources. This federal tax credit called the "Investment Tax Credit" is available for buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To be eligible for the 20 percent credit, properties must be income producing and includes commercial, retail, office, lodging, residential rentals, or industrial uses.

Washington State also has a property tax incentive called "Special Valuation for Historic Properties" available to national and locally registered properties within CLG communities. This incentive is offered in nearly 50 local jurisdictions that have passed the special valuation legislation through ordinance. Special Valuation is available for both commercial and residential properties with rehabilitation costs equaling 25 percent or more of the building's assessed value. Rehabilitation costs are then subtracted from the assessed value of the property for a period of ten years.

The *National Register of Historic Places* and the *Washington Heritage Register* are two recognition programs administered by the DAHP. A listing on the National Register and/or the Washington Heritage Register is intended to provide recognition and convey distinction to those properties that help represent our local, state, or national heritage. Designations may include single properties or entire districts such as downtown Centralia or the Hillyard District in Spokane. Listings and associated preservation incentives help support efforts by property owners and communities to preserve properties for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of both present and future generations. To be listed on the National Register or the Washington Heritage Register, properties must meet certain criteria and retain their historic integrity. Restrictions or obligations on how the property owner uses or manages the resource are not imposed on properties that are on either list, except when receiving federal funding, a license, or permit.

[\[www.dahp.wa.gov\]](http://www.dahp.wa.gov)