

**Attendees: Work Group Members**

Cariño Barragan, Paul Benz, Malou Chavez, Sam Cho, Bre Elsey, Alex Galarza, Antonio Ginatta, Eric Gonzalez, Kristin Kershaw Snapp, Karen Lewis, Victoria Mena, Monserrat Padilla, Keelcy Perez Woolley, Sandra Rodarte

**Commerce Staff**

Tammy Deets, Marie Splaine, Rick Anderson, Tracy Schreiber

**Governor's Office:** Alejandro Sanchez, Special Assistant to the Governor

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**Review & Update**

Tammy and Alejandro updated members about programs and activities that are happening in the state on issues brought up by the Work Group members during the last meeting on April 3rd.

- There were follow-up meetings between Rich Stolz, Work Group Chairperson, Lisa Brown, Director of Commerce, Chris Green, Assistant Director of Commerce, and other Commerce staff since the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. It was agreed that the Work Group members will receive updates on programs and activities that Commerce and other committees are working on while the members will focus on three gap areas (see below 3 priorities section).
- Broadband – Commerce launched a mapping initiative to identify gaps in high-speed internet. There are now Drive-in WiFi Hotspots around the state to help access to internet. The mapping initiative will help Commerce to identify community needs by geographical areas.
  - *Sam Cho commented that broadband has become “essential” not only for business but also for education, public health, and livelihood such as job search and filing for unemployment claims. He would like to know more about how and what we are doing to address equity and if there are opportunities to leverage or collaborate with entities such as the Port of Seattle.*
- Rental assistance - \$100 million is available for rental assistance for Washington Communities.
- Child care partnership grants – Funds available to expand capacity and access of child care programs.
- Working Washington grants for small business – Over 1500 businesses are expected to receive over \$9.7 million saving an estimated of 5,500 jobs.
- Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee focuses on seasonal & temporary workers.
- *See attached programs update. (Page 5-6)*

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**Legislative Report**

The group reviewed RCW 43.330.510 and started thinking about what a legislative report would look like. We will target a 5-8 page report focusing on defining the issue, why it's important, key challenges, opportunities and next steps. Commerce staff will create a template for each topic to help them start thinking and writing the report.

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**Define the 3 Priorities**

The three priorities agreed to between Commerce and Rich Stolz are:  
1) Small business recovery & support

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**centered on  
immigrant  
populations**

- 2) Support 1099 independent contractors
  - The fact that unemployment rules have expanded to cover 1099 contractors, members discussed if this section should be incorporated into the small business recovery and support or be part of the workforce development strategies. It was decided that this topic warrants its own focused group.
- 3) Workforce development strategies

Members agreed to focus on these three areas for the next five months and self-selected an area of interest.

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**Breakout  
Discussions**

The three small groups had a short breakout session and had a preliminary outline of their discussions as follow:

- 1) **Small Business Recovery Support Group** - Keelcy Perez Woolley, Kristin Kershaw Snapp, Sam Cho, and Bre Elsey. Facilitator - Tammy Deets (COM)

**Are there others who may be suitable and interested to join a sub-committee for a deeper dive into one of these three areas?**

*Potential non-work group members participation -*

*Ethnic chamber of Commerce members or small business groups in areas of high immigrant density.*

**What do we want to communicate to the legislature about the topic to touch the heart, facts, and data?**

*Idea for a good story: When the PPP loan money runs out in October, small businesses will face with the hard choice of paying rents or laying off employees.*

**What information/data is needed to communicate this to the legislature? If there a good story to be told to capture their hearts? What facts do we have?**

- *Definition of small business*
- *Need to identify needs*

**What do we need to do for next steps or action items before the next meeting to move this topic forward? Who will do what by when?**

*Meet before next big group meeting*

- 2) **Support to non-traditional “gig workers” or 1099 independent contractors LC including the self-employed who are not qualified for unemployment** - Rich Stolz (tbc) and Victoria Mena. Facilitator - Tracy Schreiber (COM)

**Are there others who may be suitable and interested to join a sub-committee for a deeper dive into one of these three areas?**

No answer

**What do we want to communicate to the legislature about the topic to touch the heart, facts, and data?**

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- It's not just 1099, there are LLCs too.
- You pay into a system that you can't use because of status.

**What information/data is needed to communicate this to the legislature? Is there a good story to be told to capture their hearts? Where is the data? What facts do we have?**

- *Access to information*
- *Funding doesn't trickle down to communities*
- *Very little to support essential workers*

**What do we need to do for the next steps or action items before the next meeting to move on this topic? Who will do what by when?**

*Tracy can provide an overview of the data on independent contractors in the state.*

- 3) **Workforce development strategies** - Cariño Barragan, Paul Benz, Karen Lewis, Sandra Rodarte, Eric Gonzalez, Malou Chavez. (Need a facilitator for this group)

**What do we want to communicate to legislature?**

- *Need a grant program similar to the USDA to transition from farm workers to owners.*
- *Generational wealth and equality*
- *Provide holistic approach to workers and farm owners such as funding and how to run a business.*
- How to follow labor laws
- Stop brain drain

**What information/data is needed to communicate this to the legislature? If there a good story to be told to capture their hearts? What facts do we have?**

- *Access for language*
- *Documented and undocumented workers & how the state can help*
- *Community organizations have the trust*
- *What programs are out there*
- *Economic*

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### Next Steps

- Members who haven't selected a group are: Monserrat Padilla, Alex Galarza, Antonio Ginatta, Julia Gorton. Please feel free to let me know or contact those team members and let them know that you would like to join.
  - The small groups will fill out their topic areas prior to the next meeting. We will use this to discuss the topics at the next meeting.
  - Commerce will create a template for each topic area to start creating the legislative report.
  - Rick will create a timeline for the report schedule. (see template on page 7)
  - The group would like an update from Dept of Agriculture about what they are doing for workforce development.
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## **Keep Washington Working Work Group**

**August 6, 2020 | 3:00 – 4:30 pm**

**Meeting Notes**

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- Future meeting dates are August 27, September 17, October 8, October 29, and November 19
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## **Broadband**

The Washington State Broadband Office and state Public Works Board have launched a mapping initiative to identify gaps in high-speed internet service and areas of broadband infrastructure needs in order to advance the state's goal to have universal broadband access in Washington by 2024.

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/news-releases/community-programs-facilities/state-broadband-officeneeds-you-to-help-identify-low-or-no-high-speed-internet-service-areas/>

In response to the impacts of COVID-19, Drive-In WiFi Hotspots provide free temporary, emergency internet access for Washingtonians who do not have broadband service to their homes.

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/washington-state-drive-in-wifi-hotspotslocation-finder/>

## **Child Care Partnership Grants underway**

### Funding priorities

Grant funds will prioritize projects that expand capacity of and access to child care programs that serve:

- Underserved areas (where access is very limited)
- Historically marginalized communities and families

### Minimum requirements

To be considered for grant funding, projects must:

- Focus on expanding capacity of and access to child care
- Involve collaborative effort of community partners. The application must include (as an attachment) one or more letters of support signed by project partners indicating commitment to collaborate.
- Respond to local community needs

### Round 1

Notice of Funding Availability Release:	June 15, 2020
Questions and Answer Sessions:	June 23 & July 1, 2020
Applications Due 5 p.m.:	July 13, 2020
Apparent Successful Applicants Announced:	Aug. 3, 2020
Performance Period:	Aug.14, 2020 – June 30 2021

### Anticipated schedule for funding round 2

Notice of Funding Availability Release:	Aug. 17, 2020
Applications Due 5 p.m.:	Sept. 11, 2020
Performance Period:	Oct. 9, 2020 – June 30, 2021

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/about-us/boards-and-commissions/child-care-collaborative-taskforce/child-care-partnership-grants/>

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AUGUST 5, 2020 COVID IMPACT RELATED WORKS

## **Rental Assistance**

\$100 million rental assistance headed to Washington communities

Commerce distributing state CARES Act funding to community agencies that will operate assistance program to pay past due rent and prevent future evictions

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/news-releases/community-grants/100-million-rental-assistanceheaded-to-washington-communities/>

## **Working Washington Grants for small businesses**

Over 1500 Washington businesses are expected to receive over \$9.7 million, saving an estimated 5,500 jobs. Of these, initial data shows 360 are minority-owned, 749 are woman-owned, 109 are veteran-owned and 18 are Tribal-owned enterprises. A broad range of industries are represented, including retail, hospitality, manufacturing, construction and other sectors including healthcare, veterinary, child care, barbershops, salons, business services and more.

<http://startup.choosewashingtonstate.com/links/crisis/covid-19-resources/wwsbg-grant-recipients/>

#### **Instructions**

Please fill out the following template to help us start writing the 2020 legislative report. Our report should be 5-8 pages with an introduction and we chose to focus on three key areas for the first report. If you have any questions please let Tammy, Rick or Marie know.

#### **Topic**

Topic name.

#### **Problem Statement**

Briefly describe your topic in less than three sentences.

#### **Why is this Important?**

Describe why this issue is so important to Washington state and our communities.

#### **3-5 Key Issues**

What are the 3-5 key issues?

#### **Key Challenges?**

Describe the key challenges

#### **Data Available**

Is there data available we can use to support the issue?

#### **What is being done now to move the needle on this topic?**

Are there other groups or activities being done to move the needle on the issue?

#### **Story we can share in report?**

Is there a person or group we can highlight to share a story to support the issue. We want to connect the report to the heart ♥ and this is the best way!

#### **What is needed/ next steps**

What do we need to move the needle on this topic and what are the next steps?