

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is Opportunity Washington?

Opportunity Washington: Priorities for Shared Prosperity is a roadmap for expanding Washington's culture of opportunity to individuals, families, employers, and communities in every corner of the state. It is based in research and informed by community input.

## Who created Opportunity Washington?

Opportunity Washington was created by the Washington Alliance for a Competitive Economy (WashACE) and is backed by a [statewide coalition](#) that believes the continued health of Washington's economy and the shared prosperity of its citizens depend on smart public policy and strategic investments.

## Does Opportunity Washington have a legislative agenda?

Opportunity Washington is not intended to be an agenda for any single legislative session. It is a long-term vision for continued improvement that will maintain and strengthen our state's economy and maximize the creation of new and rewarding opportunities across Washington state.

## How were the priorities developed for Opportunity Washington?

WashACE worked with local chambers of commerce, economic development councils, business owners, and civic leaders to create a positive set of priorities that would lead to one unifying goal: Expand Washington's culture of opportunity to individuals, families, employers, and communities in every corner of our state.

We took input from business and civic leaders in communities all across Washington. We listened to their thoughts about what's working and what needs to be improved. Those thoughts and ideas serve as the basis for Opportunity Washington going forward.

## What are Opportunity Washington's top priorities?

Opportunity Washington is organized around three guiding priorities:

1. **ACHIEVE:** Provide a high-caliber education and workforce development system geared toward the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
2. **CONNECT:** Create an efficient, multimodal transportation system that links Washington's communities to each other and the world.
3. **EMPLOY:** Pursue policies that encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation.

These priorities focus on the fundamentals, the foundation upon which our state's economy has been built, and from which we can extend opportunities to today's Washingtonians and the generations that follow.

## Why do we need Opportunity Washington?

Our state has exceptional advantages, from its geographic location to natural resources and diverse geographic beauty. We are privileged to have an array of cultural, recreational, and economic advantages, rooted in a tradition of innovation. But we cannot let those advantages lull us into complacency.

Recovery from the Great Recession has been uneven and isn't touching all parts of the state. It should be easier for young people to prepare for their futures. For men and women to secure rewarding employment. For entrepreneurs to succeed. For communities and employers to strengthen ties and make connections around the world.

Opportunity Washington provides a roadmap for making that happen. It offers a common set of shared priorities aimed at expanding opportunity and shared prosperity to every corner and community of Washington state.

## How will Opportunity Washington measure progress?

Opportunity Washington will track a variety of progress indicators in the priority areas of [Achieve](#), [Connect](#), and [Employ](#). This includes tracking metrics like [Benchmarks for a Better Washington](#) and others that measure progress on innovation, education, transportation, and economic vitality.

## What will it take to achieve the goals of Opportunity Washington?

It will take a shared, long-term commitment from all of us — employers, families, individuals, civic and community organizations, and governments — working together to expand opportunity and shared prosperity. Every Washingtonian is a stakeholder in this effort.

## How can I engage in the Opportunity Washington effort?

Visit [our website](#) to “Join the Effort” and sign up for our email updates and alerts. We'll regularly reach out to supporters to provide our perspectives on key issues, share analysis and research, and urge action in support of important and timely issues. You can also engage with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).