



TOOLBOX Resource Sheet

Local Economic Development Efforts

September 25, 2026

Regional Context

The central Puget Sound region was one of the fastest growing job markets in the country leading up to the pandemic. But after a post-pandemic recovery, job growth has been stagnant for the past three years.

Regional leaders across the public and private sectors are working together to address these challenges and seize emerging opportunities. PSRC is currently in the process of updating the [Regional Economic Strategy](#) (RES). The RES builds off other planning efforts to provide a roadmap for strengthening economic growth in the central Puget Sound region, identifying key challenges, emerging opportunities, and priorities for long-term development. During the process to develop the RES, PSRC also partnered with Challenge Seattle to launch the recently announced [Partnership for a Competitive Puget Sound](#).



Christine Gregoire, former Governor of Washington State and CEO of Challenge Seattle, addresses the crowd during the launch event for the Partnership for a Competitive Puget Sound.



Puget Sound Regional Council

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Local Efforts

In addition to these regional shifts, local governments in the central Puget Sound region have recently adopted new comprehensive plans. These long-range documents include economic development policies that will shape the economic landscape of the region over the next twenty years. Early implementation efforts are beginning to take shape across the region. This TOOLBOX session explores economic development initiatives from three jurisdictions:

- [City of North Bend](#): Project Belay
- [City of Lakewood](#): Subarea Revitalization and South Sound Military & Communities Partnership
- [City of Shoreline](#): North City Arts & Eats Market; Mixed-use, Small Business & Housing Working Group

Further Reading

[Economic Development Element Guide](#) | **PSRC** : This element guide was designed to support jurisdictions during the 2024 comprehensive plan update cycle. The document describes state, regional, and local policy contexts for economic development planning, provides guidance on data to inform policy decisions, details best practices for economic development planning, and describes how to evaluate the success of policy and actions.

[Partnership for a Competitive Puget Sound](#) | **Challenge Seattle**: This report presents seven goals and 20 practical recommendations to restore competitiveness in the central Puget Sound region. From improving business customer service and permitting to strengthening workforce pipelines and supporting the industries that drive our economy, the plan lays out a focused agenda for keeping and creating jobs across the region.

[Building a Culture of Partnership: A Playbook for Puget Sound Mayors](#) | **Challenge Seattle**: Developed in partnership with mayors across Puget Sound, this resource explores how to build trusted business relationships, make economic development a shared responsibility across City Hall, and work with regional partners to strengthen competitiveness.



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