



Workforce Development

Objective:

Support a strong, diverse, and sustainable economy

Strategy:

Support workforce development programs for adults and youth

Why is this strategy important?

King County is committed to fostering partnerships with labor, business, and the local community to create a skilled workforce that reflects the diversity of the County's population. A skilled workforce, in turn, supports a strong economy in King County.

How is our performance?

In 2011, 1,528 individuals completed workforce development programs provided by King County's Department of Community and Human Services. One-quarter of those participants were placed in jobs.

DCHS' Employment and Education Resources Program manages five programs that prepare and place individuals in jobs. For adults, the three programs are:

- Dislocated Worker Program, which assists adults age 18 and older with finding work after being laid off
- King County Jobs Initiative Program, which helps adults age 18 and older who are currently or were previously involved in the criminal justice system get training and living-wage jobs
- WorkSource Renton, which is a one-stop employment center that connects people with jobs and training.

The two youth employment/educational programs are:

- Out of School Program, which assists young people ages 16- 21 who have dropped out of high school before graduating get re-engaged with education, career planning, community and technical college or apprenticeships and work
- Stay in School Program, which improves young people's educational achievement levels by providing a comprehensive mix of year-round services to youth in danger of not completing high school.

King County's Apprenticeship Program establishes apprenticeship requirements on selected public works projects. Total labor hours and opportunity for training are the determining factors in establishing apprenticeship requirements. In 2011, the King County Apprenticeship Program trained 453 individuals. These individuals provided 141,721 hours of labor, or 14 percent of all hours eligible for apprenticeship positions.

The King County Apprenticeship Program is part of a concerted regional effort to address population trends in recent demographic studies that forecast a shortage of skilled workers in the construction industry in the Puget Sound Region. An essential component of the program is the inclusion of people of color, women, and persons with disabilities and economically disadvantaged youth as apprentices on selected county public works projects. Resulting journey workers can enter the region's pool of skilled labor, fully qualified for jobs. In addition to promoting a well-trained diverse workforce that is critical to the economic and social vitality of the Puget Sound region, the apprentice starts a career path in a vibrant and essential industry, while earning a livable family wage.

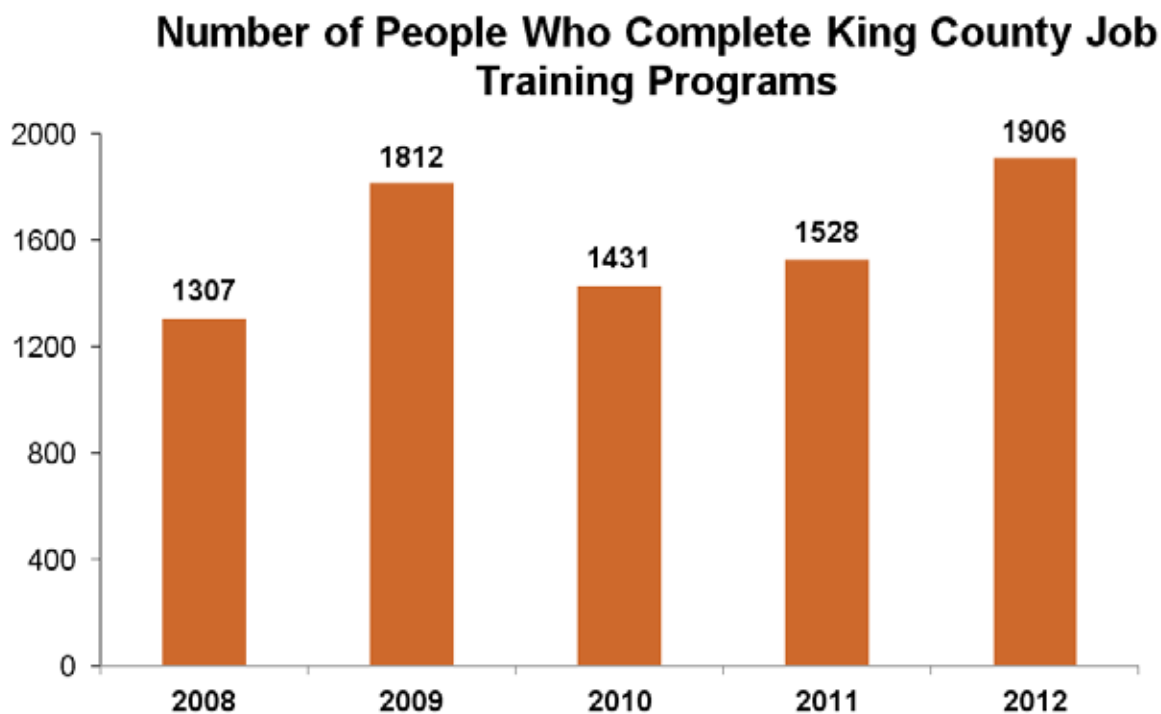
Moving forward

King County will continue to provide on-the-job training opportunities for individuals seeking to work in the construction industry by requiring the use of apprentices by contractors on select public works projects. These requirements help ensure that the Apprenticeship Program meets its voluntary hiring goals in the future, which are 20 percent hiring goals for apprentice positions for people of color and 18 percent for women.

Related Links

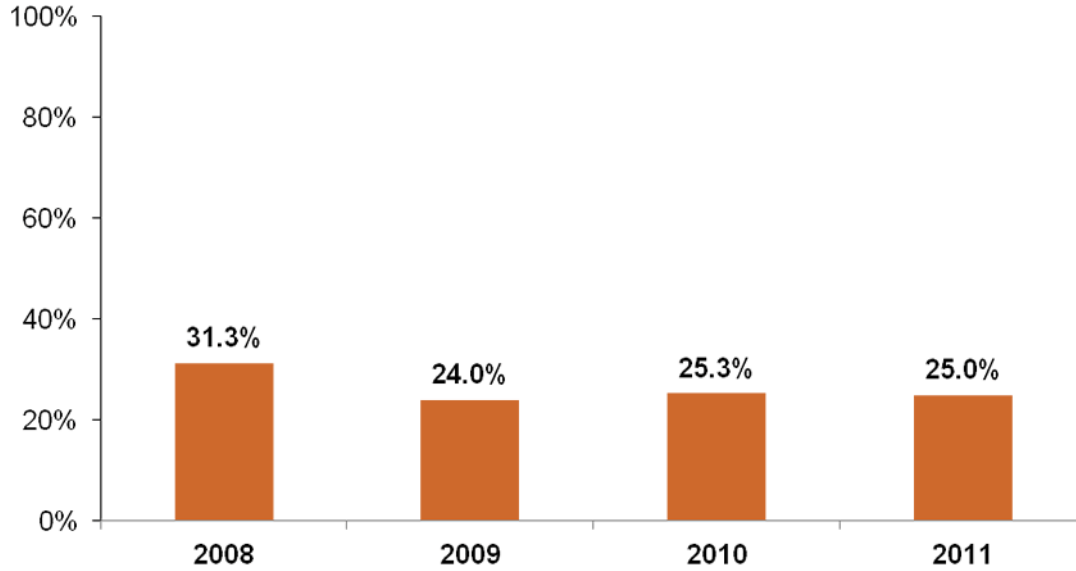
[Apprenticeship Program Information for Employers and Apprentices](#)

Charts and Maps



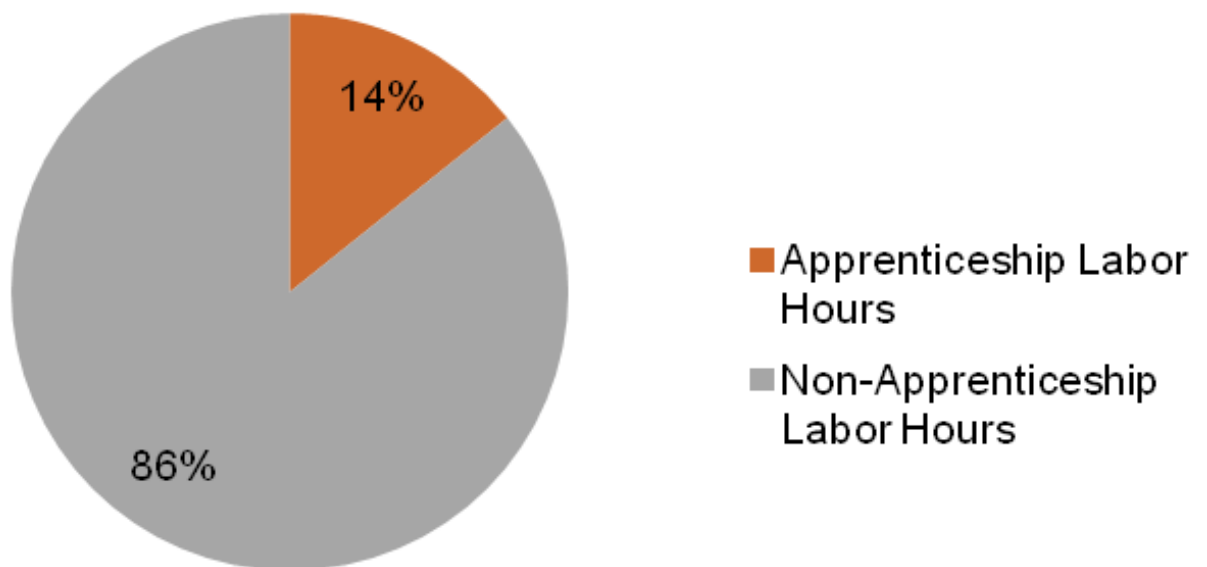
Data Source: King County Department of Community and Human Services

Percent of Job training Participants Placed in Jobs



Data Source: King County Department of Community and Human Services

2011 King County Funded Construction Projects



Data from King County Finance and Business Operations