

Olympia Strong Initiatives Matrix

Working Draft: 05/05/2023

FOCUS AREA: EDUCATION + WORKFORCE PATHWAYS						
<p>Vision: Every Olympian is afforded quality lifelong educational opportunities that build pathways to upward mobility and financial stability.</p> <p>Community Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased sense of hope and self-reliance • Decrease in equity gap • Interruption of poverty cycle • Activation of 100% of our workforce potential • Decreased reliance on social service networks 						
Key Words	Initiatives	City Department (role)	Partners (role)	Notes Is this a New or Continuing Initiative for the City? City-specific or Regional? Link to Other Plans?	Implement-ation Timeline	Annual City Funding Need
Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an Olympia Youth Council to expand community leadership and involvement opportunities for diverse high school students <i>(under exploration and a recommendation will be made in 2023)</i> 	City Manager's Office (lead)	OSD and other partners TBD in 2023 (support)	-New -City-specific -One Community (2.5)		TBD in 2023
Career Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow the Olympia Career Hub, a career training program to prepare people for local in-demand occupations, including but not limited to jobs in construction, clean energy, the medical sector, logistics and supply chain management. The program is low or no cost, and sometimes able to provide stipends for participation. 	Ec Dev (support)	Chamber Workforce Division (lead); PacMtn; ESD 113; Makers Space; SPSCC	-Continue (a one-time covid funded project) -Regional Workforce Initiative -One Community (2.4,1.7)		\$50-60k per cohort annually
Training Location(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure flexible, appropriate locations for workforce training programs to locate 	Ec Dev (support)	Chamber Workforce Division (lead); PacMtn; SPSCC; Makers Space	-New -Regional Workforce Initiative -One Community (2.4,1.7)		Unknown
Youth Career Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and increase participation in programs that introduce youth to career options and prospective employers, such as Find Your Future and other employer integrated workforce development activities 	Ec Dev (support)	Chamber Foundation (lead); PacMtn; Makers Space	- New - Regional - One Community (2.5)		\$2k annual sponsorship

Continuing Ed Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with the United Way to fund a Navigator that connects all Olympia School District high schoolers to continuing education opportunities and financial resources. 	Ec Dev (support)	United Way (lead); OSD;	-New -Regional effort -One Community (2.5)		\$40k annually to fund half the position
Journey 2 Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with Journey2Jobs and other programs that provide skill-building, employment and related wrap-around services for formerly homeless and incarcerated individuals 	Ec Dev (support)	PacMtn (lead)	-Continue (a one-time covid funded project) -Regional -One Community (1.7)		\$300-500k annually
TESC Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold quarterly leadership team meetings with The Evergreen State College to identify partnership opportunities 	Ec Dev (lead)	TESC; SPSCC	-New -City specific -Downtown Strategy		Staff time
City Internships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand City internships, mentorships, job shadowing, tours and other measures that expand career pathway opportunities for a broader cross-section of our community (consider hiring internship coordinator) 	Human Resources Office (lead)	SPSCC, TESC, OSD (source of participants)	-New -City specific -One Community (2.5) - Look into AmeriCorps		\$32k per half time intern annually
Workplace Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with Morningside and other organizations to provide and promote employment opportunities for adults with disabilities 	Human Resources (Lead) Ec Dev (support)	Morningside (lead)	-Continue, more proactive -City specific or regional		Varies by position; Av.\$65k annually
City Contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore a requirement that City capital projects over a certain threshold require the contractor to have a percentage of their labor hours performed by apprentices. 	City Clerk and Public Works (co-leads)		- New - City specific		Staff time

FOCUS AREA: HOUSING + SENSE OF SECURITY

Vision: All Olympians can enter and sustain stable housing while building household financial security.

Community Benefits:

- People who work in Olympia can afford to live here
- Housing is affordable for lower income households and first-time buyers
- Increase in generational wealth building through home ownership and affordable rental options
- Employer confidence that workers can access affordable workforce housing
- More residents can afford to pursue personal growth opportunities
- Improvement in other attendant indicators: law enforcement interaction, food security, health outcomes, et al

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Economic Security Pilot Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study outcomes and best practices from the universal basic income pilot project (EsCA) managed by PacMtn and evaluate options for connecting more Olympians to this or similar economic security resources 	Ec Dev (support)	PacMtn/ESD (co-leads); EDC	<p>-New</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Regional -Track results for potential local application 		Staff time to evaluate; \$2M to operate annually?
Land Banking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively purchase vacant and underutilized properties that can be used for or converted into permanently affordable or rent-capped housing stock 	Ec Dev (lead); CPD/Housing (support)	Thurston County/HAC (support)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue, more proactive -City specific or regional -Housing Action Plan 		Min. \$1M annual fund to bank for property acquisition
New Housing Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow partnerships with low-income housing developers and organizations seeking to build housing stock that meets the community’s needs, including opportunities for home ownership and projects that meet the specific needs of various populations (e.g., people with disabilities, seniors, justice-involved individuals) 	Housing/Ec Dev/CPD (co-leads)	Low income housing developers (potential support or co-lead); SPSCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue, more proactive -City specific -Housing Action Plan -One Community -Reimagining Public Safety 		Staff time
Inclusive Housing Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the feasibility of partnering with Morningside and/or similar organizations on an innovative integrated housing development that builds familiarity and connections between people with developmental disabilities and other community members seeking affordable housing alternatives 	Housing (lead)	Morningside (potential support or co-lead)	<p>-New</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -City specific or regional -Housing Action Plan 		Staff time to evaluate; project TBD

Home Ownership Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow recommendations from the 2023 study on ways City can facilitate development of housing options that include long-term affordability and home ownership, including multifamily ownership options and other creative solutions and projects that meet the specific needs of various populations. Include downpayment assistance options as part of this. 	CPD/Housing (co-leads)	Regional Housing Council; builders; banks; nonprofits (support)	-New -City specific or regional -Housing Action Plan		Unknown
Low-Interest Home Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate options for providing low-interest loans for projects that add affordable housing stock in the city 	Housing (lead); Finance (support)		-Revamp and expand old section 108 program -City specific -Housing Action Plan		\$1.7-1.8M CDBG
Adaptive Reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentivize and streamline the conversion of vacant office buildings into housing, and promote Olympia as a great place to undertake adaptive reuse projects 	CPD (co-lead); Public Works (co-lead)	OMB (support)	-Continue, more proactive -City specific -Housing Action Plan		Staff time; possible one-time costs
City-wide Development Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve a collaborative interdepartmental team to conduct a comprehensive review of City policies, fees and development regulations to identify viable options with a goal to make it easier to build and reduce overall housing costs in balance with other goals and priorities 	CPD/PW (co-leads); Finance, Ec Dev, others (support)	Peer utilities (support)	-Continue with a broader, more proactive outlook -City specific		Staff time; possible one-time costs for consulting services
Strategic Infrastructure Investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend targeted public infrastructure investments that help attract and expedite private sector housing construction or redevelopment 	Public Works (lead); Finance/CPD (support)	Peer utilities (support)	-New -City specific -Housing Action Plan		Staff time; costs unknown
Transitional Workforce Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convert Plum Street Village into transitional housing for formally houseless and incarcerated individuals who simultaneously enroll in training and education programs, or begin reentry into the workforce 	Housing and Ec Dev (co-leads)	PacMtn (support) United Way (support)	-New -City specific		\$400k annually
Affordable Housing Toolchest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a regional resource of affordable housing tools with a target audience of brokers and developers looking to develop or rehab buildings for housing 	Housing (support)	TRPC; Realtors Association; OMB (support)	-New -Regional		Staff time; potential one-time costs
Retrofits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue public assistance (tech training, funding) to assist low and moderate income households with existing building retrofits, to promote long term health, safety and energy savings 	Housing (Lead) Climate (support)		-New -City specific or regional		Staff time
Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a household financial expense reduction toolkit with info about city service discounts for low income households, library resources, foodbank, etc. 	Ec Dev (lead)		-New -City specific		Staff time

FOCUS AREA: BUSINESS ENTERPRISE RESOURCES + SUPPORT

Vision: All Olympia businesses and entrepreneurs are able to access investment capital and world-class training and technical assistance, in a supportive environment that celebrates and promotes their success.

Community Benefits:

- Grows efforts with new and existing partner organizations to build a more inclusive economy
- Ensures newly formed businesses have access to workforce training and employment services
- Facilitate access to capital for aspiring entrepreneurs
- Furthers community priority to stimulate local, independent employers and businesses
- Creates new avenues to business ownership and prosperity for employees

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Business Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide full spectrum business support and training programs through the Thurston EDC Center for Business and Innovation, as well as micro and alternative business development and succession planning programs offered through organizations such as Enterprise for Equity and Northwest Cooperative Development Center 	Ec Dev (support)	Thurston EDC (lead); Enterprise for Equity; NWCDC; SPSCC	-Continue -Regional		\$100k
Access to Business Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue seeking ways to expand access to capital for aspiring entrepreneurs from underbanked and underrepresented populations (e.g., support EDC/Thurston County Target Zone Startup Grants, outreach to banks and credit unions, City sponsored micro-loan fund) 	Ec Dev (support)	Thurston EDC (lead)	-New -Regional		\$100k
Community Resource Navigators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand up a Community Resource Navigator pilot project that places paid staff and volunteers in target zone neighborhoods and/or community centers where they can help connect residents with business startup resources, career pathways or other support that increases financial resiliency (e.g., offer grassroots support programs, start here resource fair) 	Ec Dev (support)	Thurston EDC (lead)	-New -Regional		\$70k per navigator annually
Corporate Headquarters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with EDC to help attract and help grow anchor employers that align with Olympia values, with an emphasis on anchor employers and emerging sectors, tech, green energy and construction (e.g., Mud Bay, Left-Hand, Naked Prosthetics) 	Ec Dev (support)	Thurston EDC (lead)	-Continue -Regional		Staff time

Business Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide or coordinate barrier-busting assistance for business or employer partners (typical issues include permitting, public safety, city policy, etc.) 	Ec Dev (lead)	Thurston EDC (support)	-Continue -City specific		Staff time
Childcare Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate a multi-partner conversation and other outreach to identify actions and resources that can help stabilize the Childcare industry and add capacity/lower family costs over time (e.g., the City could waive childcare facility impact fees on new center construction, eliminating \$150k in additional startup costs; state and federal partners can provide updates on the timing/availability of new programs) 	Ec Dev (support)	Lead TBD; Child Care Action Council; Staff from State and Federal Rep Offices; Chamber; YMCA	-Continue, more proactive -Regional		Staff time; possible one-time costs for consulting services
Childcare Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options to expand Olywahoo summer day camp to serve more families, including increasing scholarships for low income households. 	Parks (lead)		-Expand -City specific		\$77,500 for another camp with 45 children
Squaxin Island Tribe Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore partnership options with the Squaxin Island Tribe that will expand economic opportunities downtown while also featuring Tribal culture and heritage 	Ec Dev (co-lead)	Squaxin Island Tribe (co-lead)	-Continue -City specific		Staff time (evaluation phase)
Business Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formally celebrate Olympia businesses for their support of community goals like sustainability, climate action, equity, championing youth, etc. at Council meetings, in select publication and through social media to help build on City's business-friendly reputation (in addition to Chamber, EDC existing programs) 	Ec Dev/ Communications (co-leads)	Council (support); EDC and others	-New -City specific		Staff time
Pop Ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support pop ups (temporary retail events) as a way to activate vacant buildings and provide opportunity for microbusinesses, including makers and artists 	Ed Dev (Lead)	ODA	-New -City specific		\$40k in 2023-24
Clean Water Center of Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support efforts to create a clean water R+D and workforce training Center of Excellence in Olympia 	Ec Dev (support)	LOTT (lead); Port of Olympia; Thurston EDC	-New -TBD		\$10k cost-share for feasibility study; capital investment unknown

FOCUS AREA: COMMUNITY PRIDE, LOVEABILITY + RESILIENCY

Vision: Olympia is a safe, resilient and welcoming city with strong, inclusive support networks and abundant community character.

Community Benefits:

- Increases pride in our community, hope and a sense of place
- Increases the City’s desirability as a home town, visitor destination and place to do business
- Increases tax and business revenue from tourism and vital urban centers
- Improves emergency response preparedness and capacity
- Ensures sustained focus on infrastructure capacity and climate adaptation priorities

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Creative Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance Arts, Cultures and Heritage initiatives that expand our Creative Economy through opportunities and funding for artists and art organizations, as well as for the community to engage with the arts. (Implement plans for the Armory Creative Campus, Inspire Olympia and the Downtown Creative District.) 	ARCH (lead) Ec Dev (support)	Various	-Continue -City with partners -Downtown Strategy -Parks Plan		Creative District – \$50-80k bridge funding in first two years; Armory/Inspire have separate budgets
Signature Spaces and Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support, implement and promote initiatives that create unique and welcoming places and spaces in Olympia for the benefit of the community and visitors. This should include downtown, but also expand to investments and initiatives in other areas of the city like the westside. 	Arts, Parks and Public Works (lead); Ec Dev (support)	VCB; ODA; Chamber, WOBA (support)	-Continue -City and partners -Downtown Strategy -Triangle Subarea -Parks Plan - Deschutes Estuary restoration		Varies annually
Youth Activity Venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support expansion of recreation and entertainment venues for youth (e.g., a youth center or similar gathering place for youth) 	Parks (lead)		-New -City specific		Unknown

Youth Enrichment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities and resources to grow parks and recreation programs for middle school and opportunity youth (e.g., youth in foster care, justice involved youth) that provide mentorship and foster belonging, life and job skills. 	Parks				Depends on scale; \$40-50k for one after middle school program
Pride Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore and identify community pride building events, programs and other features (e.g., community clean-up day, city flag) 	?	?	-New -City specific		Staff time; incidental expenses
Visitor Destinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Experience Olympia (Visitor and Convention Bureau) strategic planning to evaluate, define and implement priority Olympia visitor promotion investments (marketing, physical attractions, service gaps, et al) 	Ec Dev (support)	VCB (Lead); Chamber; EDC	-Continue -Regional		LTAC funds of \$150k annually
State Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a contact and structure for coordinating with the State of Washington on economic development activities to determine the most mutually beneficial investments and policies, and establish an action team to follow through on implementation (climate change response, capital campus, I-5 access and bottlenecks, Deschutes Estuary, housing and homelessness grants, et al) 	City Manager's Office, Ec Dev (co-leads) City Council (support)	DES, Governor's Office	-Continue, more proactive -Downtown Strategy		Staff time
Port Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and support Port of Olympia role and value in the case of catastrophic infrastructure damage that requires sea or freight transport of people, goods and services 	Ec Dev (support)	Port of Olympia (lead); EDC	-Continue -Regional		Staff time
Climate Resiliency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of developing a climate adaptation and preparedness plan, explain and promote why timely investments in Climate preparedness and adaptation priorities build preemptive economic resiliency for all 	Climate Programs (lead); Ec Dev + all (support)	Partners TBD	-Continue, more proactive -Regional	2025	Staff time
Disaster Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapt the successful Thurston Strong model to help better prepare for future economic disruptions and emergencies and Implement effective disaster recovery 	Ec Dev (lead)	Thurston Strong team	-New -Regional		Staff time; potential other costs for training
Community Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support facilities for the Timberland Regional Library, Senior Center, Washington Center for Performing Arts, 108 State, Farmers Markets and Hands On Children's Museum as important community assets that play a role in economic development through community enrichment and tourism 	City (lead)		- Continue -City specific	Annually	Varies

Legislative Advocacy List

- Higher Medicaid reimbursement rate in legislative agenda...has not increased in 20 yrs., may reduce coverage
- Multifamily home ownership options (e.g., condo reform)
- Childcare solutions
- Mental Health Facilities

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