

Community Collaborative

Commerce 101

Presenters: Leah Brandenburg and Chris Lovings

8.13.25



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

Commerce Presenters



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Community Engagement Specialist
Clark, Cowlitz, Pacific, Skamania, and
Wahkiakum Counties



Chris Lovings (he, him)

Community Engagement Specialist
King County

We strengthen communities



HOUSING AND
HOMELESSNESS



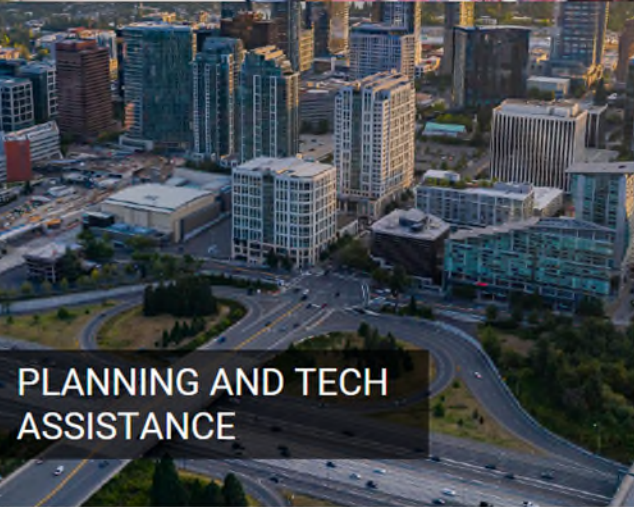
INFRASTRUCTURE AND
BROADBAND



SMALL BUSINESS
ASSISTANCE



ENERGY



PLANNING AND TECH
ASSISTANCE



COMMUNITY
SERVICES AND FACILITIES



CRIME VICTIMS AND
PUBLIC SAFETY



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

Roadmap for Today

Community Engagement

Overview of Commerce Programs

Commerce Updates

Q&A



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

Community Engagement



Poll Question #1

Where are
you joining
us from
today?

Eastern WA

North Central WA

South Central WA

Lower Southeast WA

Upper Southeast WA

Peninsula area of WA

King County

Northwestern WA

Commerce Regional Community Engagement Unit

We help connect communities to Commerce and navigate resources

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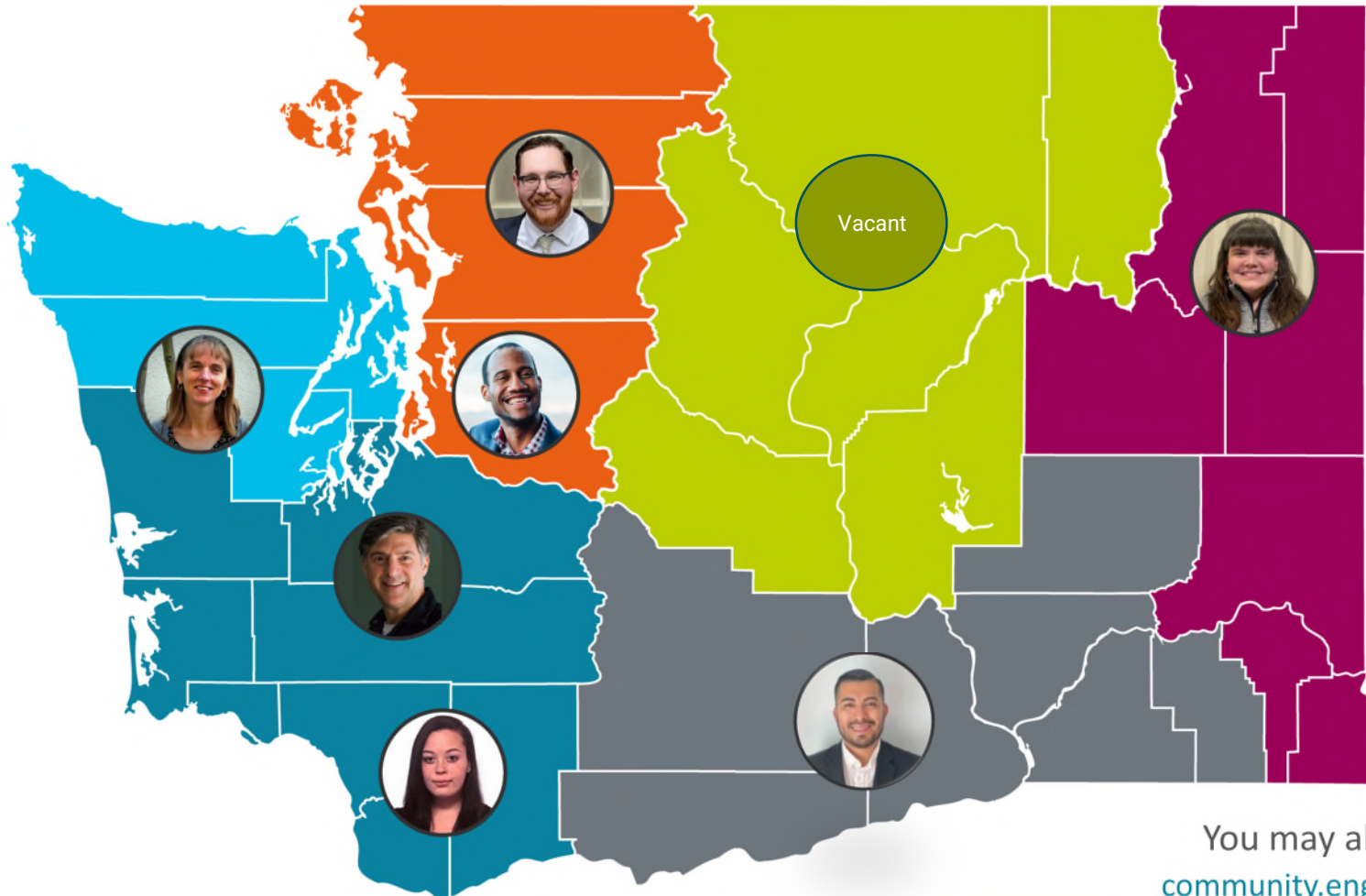
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Visit us www.Commerce.wa.gov

Unit webpage:
www.commerce.wa.gov/about-us/community-engagement/

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You may also reach us by emailing
community.engagement@commerce.wa.gov

Helping you get results



Community organization capacity building



Identify resources to match your needs



Make local network & resources connections



Develop funding stacking strategies



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

Overview of Commerce Programs

Commerce Divisions

Small Business Resiliency Network

Where to get info about Grants

Poll Question #2

What are the
focus areas of
Commerce?

Capital Projects

Business Supports

Programmatic Supports

All of the above

Commerce Divisions



Community Services Division



Housing Division



Energy Division

Commerce Divisions



Local Government Division



Office of Economic
Development and
Competitiveness



Small Business Resiliency Network

Supported by Washington State Department of Commerce



ASIA
PACIFIC
CULTURAL
CENTER



Urban League of
Metropolitan Seattle



Where to get information about grants?

- [Washington Electronic Business Solutions \(WEBS\)](#)
- [FundHub.wa.gov](#)
- [Commerce Website: www.commerce.wa.gov](#)
- [Commerce Engagement Specialists](#)





Washington State
Department of
Commerce

Commerce Updates

Changes

Listening Sessions

Grant Opportunities

Changes

- New Governor – Bob Ferguson
- New WA State Dept of Commerce Director - Joe Nguyễn and Executive Leadership
- Washington State has approximately a \$13 Billion shortfall over the next 4 years



Commerce Listening Sessions

- **4420 respondents through:**
 - 7 online community feedback listening sessions
 - 41 in-person focus group sessions across the State
 - 4 special meetings with groups who requested it
 - Online survey (3,851)
- **Participants from:**
 - Business/Economic Development Entities
 - Nonprofits
 - Community Members
 - Local Governments
 - Tribal Nations



**More to
come!**

Grant Opportunities

- *Will share screen w/ current opportunities + list upcoming grants*

Poll Question #3

How do you
see us
partnering with
you and your
communities?

Funding

Technical Assistance

Engaging more

Other

All of the above



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www.commerce.wa.gov



Questions & Thank you!

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