

PIERCE COUNTY  
WASHINGTON, USA

**edb** | **ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
BOARD** TACOMA  
PIERCE COUNTY

**ONWARD**

PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

November 2024 | No. 294 | [ChooseTacomaPierce.org](https://ChooseTacomaPierce.org)



## **Growth and Opportunity for All: A message from Tom DiFiore, National Community Development Services President and CEO**

As a 501(c)(6) organization, the EDB relies on over 80 private stakeholders and a handful of public sources to fund its efforts as Pierce County's lead economic development organization. To maintain strategic alignment with the community's needs and opportunities and to minimize the cost and operational requirements of "permanent" fundraising, the EDB (like many of its counterparts

across the country) secures its funding every five years through an investment campaign. The current plan and its funding will expire in 2025. EDB leadership has developed a successor plan for 2026-2030 called Growth and Opportunity for All.

To ensure the plan meets the needs and expectations of its investors and stakeholders and to encourage suggestions for improvement, National Community Development Services – the EDB's long-time partner/consultant – will conduct over 50 confidential interviews in November and December. These interviews are designed to identify Pierce County's most urgent economic needs and opportunities, confirm the new plan's fit with those needs, and allow constituents to confidentially offer insight and ideas. Most important, they will help refine the new five-year plan and allow the EDB to effectively budget for its implementation based on the projected fundraising potential.

After these interviews conclude, the EDB will modify its 2026-2030 plan based on stakeholder feedback and fundraising capacity. An investment campaign in 2025 will seek five-year commitments from current and new investors to fund the EDB's operational needs to implement the strategic initiative.

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## Submit your nominations for Excellent 10, Golden Shovel

Now is the time to think about outstanding projects and people in Pierce County who are key drivers of jobs, capital investment or other important community developments.

[Read more](#)



## Unlocking potential: Tideflats Subarea Plan update

Tacoma's Tideflats represent a key driver of economic growth for the region and provide significant opportunities through global and domestic trade, energy production and manufacturing.

[Read more](#)



## WorkForce Central launches Employee Training Grant for Manufacturing

The grants offer up to \$50,000 to help businesses implement training programs that enhance skills, promote employee growth and strengthen competitiveness.

[Read more](#)



## 'Tis the season to support small and local businesses

With the holiday season nearly upon us, there's no better time to support small businesses in Tacoma-Pierce County.

[Read more](#)

# SAVE THE DATE EDB ANNUAL MEETING



GREATER TACOMA CONVENTION CENTER  
FEBRUARY 26, 2025 | 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM



**Make a lasting impact as an EDB Annual Meeting sponsor!** It's the perfect way to showcase your brand to business leaders and decision makers. Choose from three sponsorship levels.

[Read more](#)

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### **Pierce County Business Accelerator Graduate Showcase, Nov. 13**

Meet, celebrate and network with more than 100 of the most ambitious and diverse entrepreneurs and business leaders in Pierce County. The free, public event will be held at the Washington State Fair Events Center in Puyallup.

[Read more](#)

### **Washington Workforce Association Conference in Tacoma, Nov. 12-14**

Join local area leaders, industry experts, workforce professionals, economic development professionals and elected officials for solution-oriented workshops that address the new and growing demands facing our workforce system.

[Read more](#)

### **Brian Marlow named new WA state market president for KeyBank**

Congratulations to EDB executive committee member and former chair Brian Marlow. In his new role, Marlow will be responsible for the Seattle Cascades market and continue as Key Private Bank's national director of investment management.

[Read more](#)

### **Export Finance Panel Discussion, Nov. 14**

Learn how export financing can grow your business. The roundtable will be offered online and in person at World Trade Center Tacoma.

[Read more](#)

### **Bates Tech offers one-of-a kind BAS in public safety administration**

The college is accepting applications for its first-ever Bachelor of Applied Science degree, which will prepare people for leadership roles in cybersecurity, fire service and law enforcement, public health and more.

[Read more](#)

### **Tickets on sale for 'bigger and better' 2025 Lens of Equity Summit**

Presented by the Pierce County Community Engagement Task Force, the second annual summit will bring together leaders, community members and advocates to engage in critical conversations and actionable strategies to advance equity across Pierce County.

[Read more](#)

## **NEWS**

[\\$12.1M project will bring improved internet to rural Pierce County](#)

[State receives \\$1.9M for new energy program](#)

[SEA Airport secures \\$45.5M grant](#)

[SAFE Boats International takes ownership](#)

[UWT receives National Science Foundation AI Research Pilot Award](#)

[Tacoma Arts Live receives \\$50K grant for small biz incubator program](#)

[State of Manufacturing address outlines sector's role in Washington's economy](#)

## Team With Us

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Onward is a service of the EDB, a non-profit corporation focused on recruitment and retention of primary businesses in Tacoma and Pierce County, Washington, USA.  
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