



Future Ready Oregon: Workforce Benefits Navigators - Pilot Project Descriptions

November 15, 2025

Future Ready Oregon (Senate Bill 1545, 2022) included \$10 million for Workforce Benefits Navigators, a strategic initiative. Funded by federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars, this investment was originally intended to place benefits navigators at WorkSource Oregon one-stop centers and community-based organizations across the state. Navigators provide a single point of contact to help individuals efficiently access the resources that match their unique needs and navigate the different programs and benefits available for workforce education and training. Local workforce development boards implemented pilot projects in 2024, and funds must be fully used by June 30, 2026. Each pilot project is tailored to meet the unique needs of the communities and priority populations within each workforce board's respective region – see below for a summary of their activities.

Clackamas Workforce Partnership

(Serving Clackamas County)

- Partnered with Northwest Family Services to stand up program.
- Northwest Family Services has hired an individual to work as a Workforce Benefits Navigator.
- Implemented referral system between partners.
- Supported current “Navigators” by providing training, networking and use of referral system.
- Hosted community outreach events to increase awareness of workforce opportunities.

East Cascade Works

(Serving Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler Counties)

- Provided funding for Klamath Works, Columbia Gorge Community College, and Easter Seals.
- Developed of Oregon Resource Network.
- Used outreach to raise awareness of workforce opportunities.

- Provided additional support at WorkSource Oregon.
- Partnered with local resources.
- Example: Partnership for WorkSource Oregon Resource Room in Condon.

Eastern Oregon Workforce Board

(Serving Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Union, Umatilla, Wallowa Counties)

- Developed online referral platform.
- Purchased vehicle for outreach to rural and frontier areas.
- Hired Project Coordinator.
- Conducted formal research of community needs.
- Purchased mobile workstations.

Lane Workforce Partnership

(Serving Lane County)

- Hosted Bridge Lane County events (inspired by the Collaboration for a Cause events hosted by Pierce County Community Engagement Task Force).
- Invested in Revielle Foundation to provide additional support for veterans.
- Used in-community Navigators to connect community members with services.
- Established Workforce Benefits Navigator Consortia.
- Developed referral network.

Northwest Oregon Works

(Serving Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, Tillamook Counties)

- Partnered with El Centro and Linn Benton Lincoln Health Equity Alliance.
- Hired Benefit Navigator to coordinate project.
- Used Mobile WorkSource Oregon van to bring services to communities.
- Conducted outreach events such as a hosting a Clatsop County Fair booth over the summer.

- Used community feedback to inform wraparound supports – for example, a financial planning class.

Rogue Workforce Partnership

(Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties)

- Used in-community Navigators.
- Incorporated outreach to business and support for entrepreneurs.
- Conducted community outreach events, such as high school senior nights.
- Strengthened partnership between community-based organizations and State of Oregon agencies.
- Developed referral network.

Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board

(Serving Coos, Curry, Douglas Counties)

- Hired individuals to work as Benefits Navigators.
- Purchased kiosk to provide private meeting space and digital technology to connect with Navigators.
- Collaborated with libraries, tribal partners, and community-based organizations.
- Conducted outreach to rural and tribal communities.
- Developed referral network.

Willamette Workforce Partnership

(Serving Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill Counties)

- Provided single point online resource to share information and facilitate networking.
- Provided funding to Community Services Consortium, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action, Easter Seals, and Chemeketa Community College to hire Community Coaches.
- Conducted interactive workshops for Community Coaches and individuals.
- Provided co-enrollment with Prosperity 10,000.
- Used in-community Navigators.

Worksystems, Inc.

(Serving Multnomah and Washington Counties)

- Provided funding to SE Works and Portland Community College to hire Benefits Navigator.
- Focused on workforce opportunities in clean energy, early learning and behavioral health.
- Engaged in DEIA work to ensure outreach materials meet the needs of communities.
- Provided outreach to priority populations about workforce opportunities.
- Used in-community Navigators.