



Meeting Location:
Meeting held via ZOOM

Contact us:
Phone (360) 876-4407
Email cityhall@portorchardwa.gov
www.portorchardwa.gov

**Economic Development and Tourism Committee
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2026
9:30 AM**

Remote Access

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83306625864>

Zoom Meeting ID: 833 0662 5864

Zoom Call-In: 1 253 215 8782

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Welcome and Introduction**
- 3. Discussion Items**
(No Action to Be Taken.)
 - A. KEDA Update**
 - B. Downtown Grant Program**
 - C. SmartGov Presentation**
 - D. Pre-Application Meetings**
- 4. Next Meeting**
- 5. Adjournment**

Fiscal YTD –				
BRER Assistance	Q 1 (ADO-Q3)	Total	%	Annual Goal
Companies assisted (BRE)	99	305	234.6%	130
Recruitment follow-up	3	8	25%	32
Start-up assistance	18	33	150%	22
Export Assistance	1	2	22.2%	8
Training / Support Events	23	52	136.8%	38
Community Engagements	49	118	196.6%	60

*ADO Contract period 7/1/25—6/30/26

Major Initiatives	Events	Outreach
-------------------	--------	----------

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APEX Accelerator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Government Contract Assistance ★ Alliance NW ★ Wednesdays with the Deputies • One Kitsap <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ FIFA World Cup ★ Economic Profile (link) ★ Navy Workforce Retention (Specifics) • Business Retention, Recruitment, and Expansion (BRER) • Kitsap Business of Childcare Taskforce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 5 Taskforce meetings ★ 3 Listening Sessions ★ Needs Survey Completed ★ RFP Awarded for Navigation Toolkit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apex Accelerator Classes x 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Request for Equitable Adjustment ★ Getting Paid with Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) ★ Cybersecurity Requirements for DOD Contractors ★ Solicitation Go or No-Go Decision ★ Letters to the Government • Contractor Coffee Hour x 3 • Prime Connect x 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Newton Building and Development ★ Port Madison CC ★ Vigor Marine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletters x10 • Monthly Featured Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Behind-the-Scenes Q&A About Kitsap’s Major Infrastructure Projects with Joe Morrison • Print ads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Kitsap Business Magazine x2 (Annual Mtg) • Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Olympic College/FIFA Workshops Gig Work |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

For more information, contact James Davis at 360.377.0180 or davis@kitsapeda.org

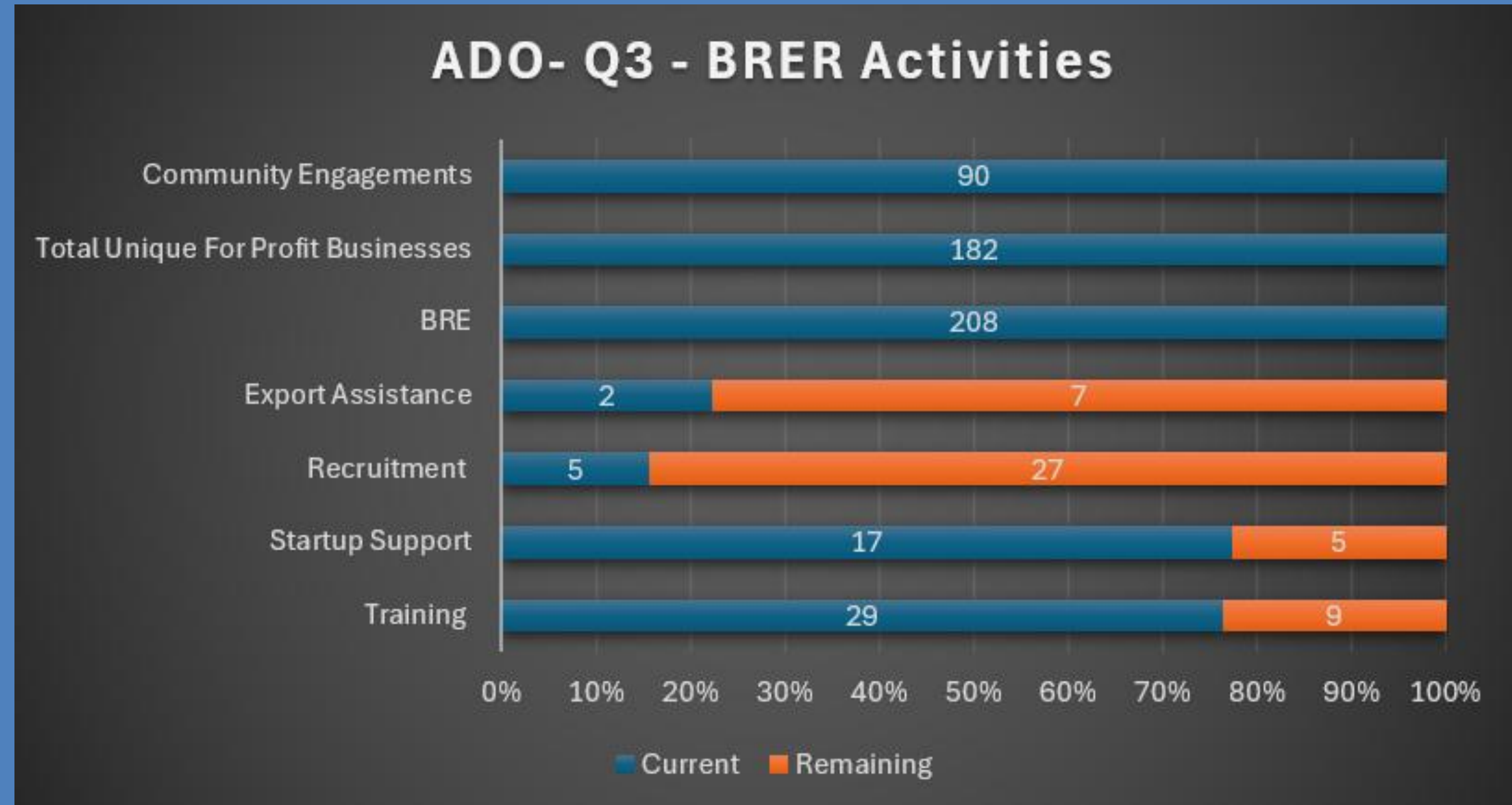
KEDA Operations Report



ADO Q3 COM Metrics Interaction KPIs

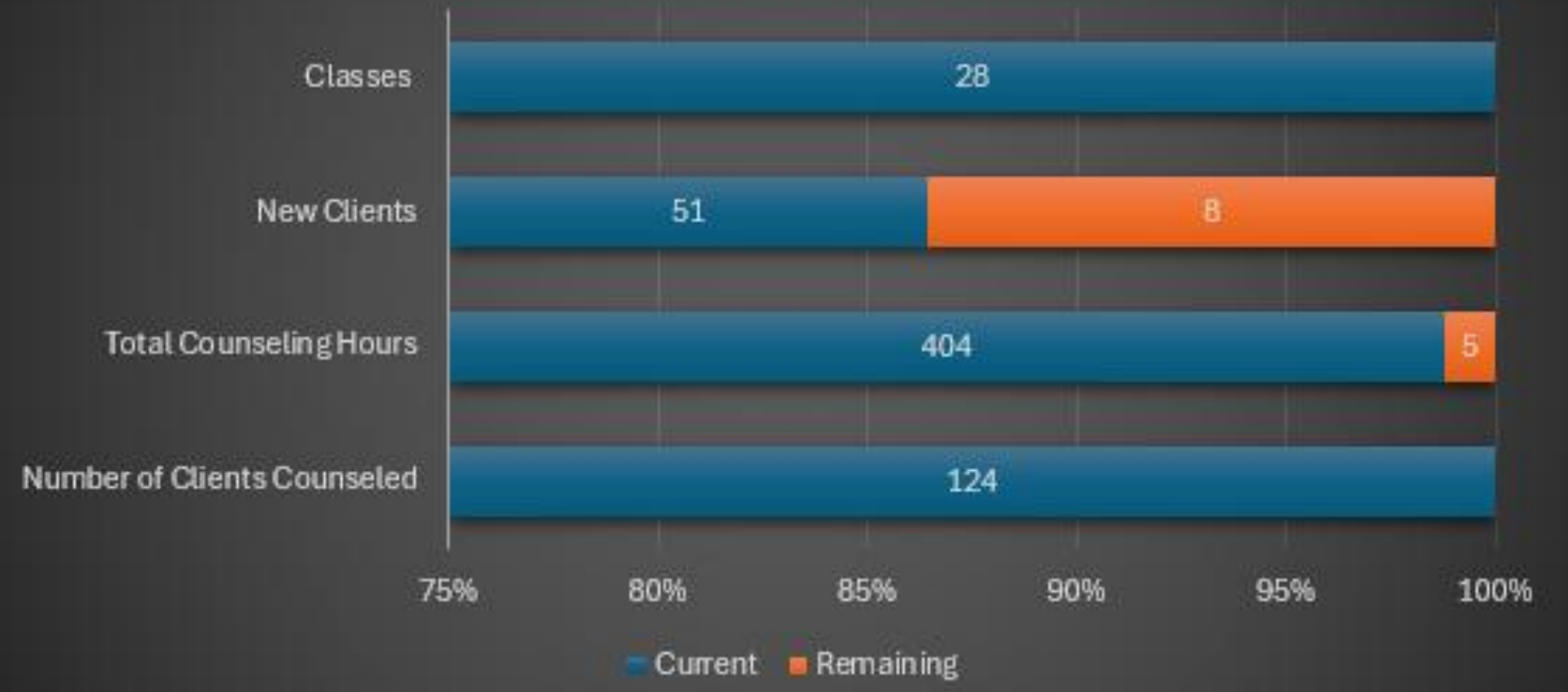


Current FY 2025-2026



Apex Accelerator

KEDA Apex Accelerator - January 2026



APEX Corner



Get help with your government contracting questions

CONTRACTING COFFEE HOUR

1st Weds of the Month
8-10 am - online

PRIME
CONNECT



APEX Classes

MEET KEDA'S GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING EXPERTS



TERRY HOMBURG **MARY JO JUAREZ**

Unlock insider knowledge with former Naval contracting officers Terry Homburg and Mary Jo Juarez. Their unique backgrounds and expertise make them invaluable guides, equipped to help businesses navigate the complexities of government contracting.

- Solicitation Review: Go or No-Go Decisions
- Letters to the Government

Community Partnership and Outreach



Listening Session #3



- United Methodist – Childcare
- Business of Childcare Task Force
- EDC Mason County – Childcare
- PSNS Childcare Study
- FIFA / GKC / Team Bremerton
- KBA/ABC Contractor Training
- Kitsap Transit
- PO, Bainbridge EDC Meetings
- Port of Kingston
- Mason | Kitsap Sewer Infrastructure
- South Kitsap School District

WORKFORCE

RESEARCH

**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**

KITSAP



WORKFORCE



- Kitsap Builders Association Trades Taskforce
- Olympic College - Workforce Development
- Blue Blur (Olympic College)
- SHRM West Sound formerly WASHRMA
- CTE General Advisory Committee CKSD
- Olympic Workforce Development Council
- KCHP Healthcare System Workgroup
- West Sound STEM Network
- Veterans (Separations / Retirements)
- Metrics Formula for 2026
- July Workforce Roundtable

RESEARCH



- **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation**
- **Quarterly Employment Report**
- **CEBR Economic Impacts – NKU**
- **Cost of Living Data – Report**
- **Top Employers Project**
- **Kitsap Profile Template**
- **Mason County Sewer Extension**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



- Individual Services
- Bainbridge Economic Development Team
- FIFA World Cup Continued
- Business Recruitments – planning 2026
- Business Retention Recruitments – scheduling
- Kingston Economic Development Team

Early Bird Registration Now Open



2026 KEDA Annual Meeting

ECONOMIC FORECAST LUNCHEON

April 2, 2026 | 11am - 1pm

Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort, Poulsbo

PREMIER SPONSOR:



Port Madison Enterprises
AN AGENCY OF THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

Additional sponsorships available!



Be on the lookout for ads coming to Feb & March Kitsap Business Magazine!

kitsapeda.me/AM2026



Sponsorship Packages

The Kitsap Economic Development Alliance (KEDA) hosts top-tier economic events that attract large audiences, with attendees including entrepreneurs, local leaders and C-Suite executives. Seize this chance to showcase your brand to Kitsap's most influential audience.

KEDA SIGNATURE EVENTS Economic Forecast & Fall Forum	Premier Sponsorship (1 per Event) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-Minute Speaking Opportunity Premier Sponsor Logo - placement on all event material & advertising Complimentary Table - premium placement 3 sponsor posts (boosted) on event social media Exhibit Table/Banner Display 	\$10,000
	Exhibit Hall Sponsorship (1 per Event) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logo Placement - all event material, & advertising (second position) Primary Position for Exhibit Table/Banner Complimentary Event Table - premium placement 	\$5000
	Hospitality Sponsorship (2 per Event) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logo Placement on event material, ticketing & KEDA website Exhibit Table/Banner in event hall Complimentary Table - preferred placement 	\$2500
	Industry Events Sponsorship (Kitsap Industrial Readiness Summit, BIPOC Biz Forum) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Minute Speaking Opportunity Logo Placement on event material, & advertising Signage and logo displayed throughout event 	\$5000
	Investor Social Sponsorship (1 per event: Q2, Q3, Q4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Minute Speaking Opportunity Signage and logo displayed throughout event 	\$3000

2025 Website Performance



Custom: Jan 1 - Dec 31 ▼

378,901 Views ⓘ

-- from previous 365 days



SIOP REAL ESTATE SOLICITATION: PHASE 2 NOW OPEN!

Administrative, Warehouse,
Industrial, and Laydown Space
Needed Near Bremerton



Partnering to Amplify Kitsap Opportunities

FIFA WC: Opportunities for Business & Community

save the date. january 15, 2026

Ready Kitsap BUSINESS & TOURISM SUMMIT 2026

Record visitor traffic is coming. Will your business be ready? Get expert guidance and a clear action plan at **Ready Kitsap: 2026 Business & Tourism Summit.**



THURSDAY, JANUARY 15 | 9:00AM - 4:30PM
KITSAP CONFERENCE CENTER

REGISTER TODAY!



Presented by:

GREATER KITSAP CHAMBER & VISITOR CENTER LEARN MORE AT GREATERKITSAPCHAMBER.COM

Thank you to our Sponsors:

KITSAP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE **PSE PUGET SOUND ENERGY** **The Latitude 48 Group**

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS & SMALL BUSINESS



AIRBNB HOSTING: Get Guest Ready
\$35 January 28 at Off Campus Location



Turn your home into a sought-after stay! Learn to craft the perfect listing, manage quick turnovers, and maximize your bookings for international guests. Prep your space. Welcome the world. Maximize your earnings.
SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER
Visit us online at: olympic.edu/continuinged

Olympic College Workshops

- 1/28 [Setting up an AirBnB](#)
- 1/17 [Fundamentals of Setting up Your Own LLC](#)
- 2/3 [Essentials for Small Business Marketing](#)
- 3/3 [Shopify Basics for Product Sellers—Setting up an Online Market Place](#)
- 3/5 [Setting up an AirBnB](#)

New workshops coming soon - Ride Share and Food Trucks!

STAY KITSAP 26 - A countywide initiative

Stay Kitsap 26 is the premier home-base for visitors traveling to the Pacific Northwest for the once-in-a-lifetime World Championship Soccer experience in the summer of 2026. [See it here](#)



KEDA Featured Story:

FEATURED STORY: TURNING BIG IDEAS INTO MARKET-READY PRODUCTS

23 DEC 2025 Featured Story, entrepreneurs, Matchstick Lab, Featured Content

WITH SUPPORT FROM MATCHSTICK LAB MICRO BUSINESS ACCELERATOR, DARREN O'CONNOR TRANSFORMED AN EV CHARGING CONCEPT INTO A SCALABLE MANUFACTURING BUSINESS.



In 2019, Darren O'Connor was in San Diego, hanging out. Taking a break from a career in the telecom industry that spanned over 25 years.

One day, he noticed his neighbor's plug in car charger. It was... well, a mess. It looked like our rotary phones did back in the 70s and 80s, with a cord that took on a life of its own.

Kinked. Coiled. Tangled. Like a bunch of spaghetti lazily flopped onto a plate. It kinda drove him nuts.

Leaning on his two-plus decades of experience in DC and AC power, cleaning up thousands of messy wires along the way, he decided to create an EV charger that, sure, could compete with any other charger out there but also one up-them with a smooth, kink and coil-free design.

It was a great idea. But how could he bring it to market?



ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS

One of the biggest challenges O'Connor faced? Securing the funding needed to cover the high upfront costs required to bring his product to market.

"Before full-scale manufacturing even begins, we need significant capital for injection mold dies, licensing and certification, and initial batch runs. And even if the first production rounds are successful, the nature of consumer electronics means we constantly need to prepare and fund the next purchase order to stay ahead. These expenses add up quickly, and having reliable funding is what allows us to scale, maintain quality, and keep the business moving forward," he said.

THE GUIDANCE, STRUCTURE, AND INSIGHT HE NEEDED

O'Connor tapped into **Matchstick Lab Micro Business Accelerator**, which started shedding light on how he could overcome those challenges; one step at a time.

KEDA Operations Report



ADO Q3 COM Metrics Interaction KPIs

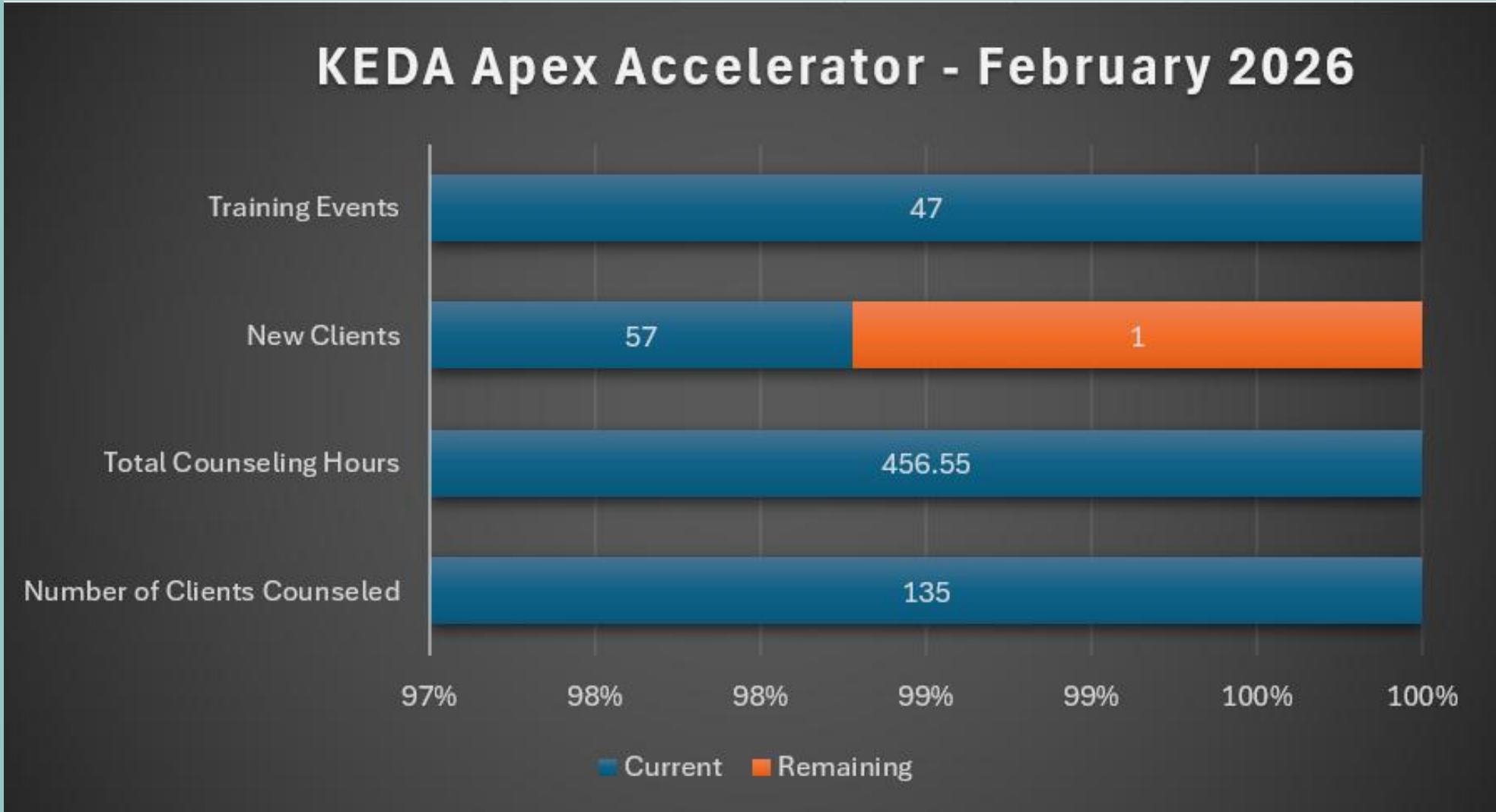


Current FY 2025-2026

ADO- Q3 - BRER Activities



Apex Accelerator



APEX Corner



Get help with your government contracting questions

CONTRACTING COFFEE HOUR

1st Weds of the Month
8-10 am - online





Listening Session #3



Community Partnership and Outreach

- Childcare Toolkit RFP Release
- Childcare Taskforce
- Kitsap Film Commission
- PSE Powerful Partnerships
- Quincy Square ELC
- FIFA / GKC / Team Bremerton / Pop Ups
- SBDC / Apex Partnership Meeting
- Opportunity Zones 2.0
- PO, Bainbridge EDC Meetings
- SWG Housing Response / Collaboration
- Mason | Kitsap Sewer Site Visit
- WEDA Conference

WORKFORCE

RESEARCH

**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**

KITSAP



WORKFORCE



- Kitsap Builders Association Trades Taskforce – Construction in Motion and Middle School Visits
- Olympic College - Workforce Development
- Blue Blur (Olympic College) and Jobs For the Future (JFF)
- SHRM West Sound formerly WASHRMA
- CTE General Advisory Committee CKSD
- Olympic Workforce Development Council
- KCHP Healthcare System Workgroup
- West Sound STEM Network
- Veterans (Separations/Retirements) Metrics Formula for 2026
- **July Workforce Roundtable**

RESEARCH



- Top Employers Project 2025
- Quarterly Employment Report
- NKU Economic Activity Report
- **Vacant Storefronts Planning**
- Mason County Sewer Extension
- Reports Schedule Completed


COMMUNITY OUTREACH



- **Military Appreciation Day Prep**
- **Navy League / Bangor**
- **WEDA Connections**
- **Bainbridge Economic Development Team**
- **Kingston Economic Development Team**
- **FIFA World Cup Continued**
- **Individual Services**

MEDIA & ADVERTISING

March Kitsap Business Magazine



Kitsap's Premier Business Event
KEDA ANNUAL MEETING

ECONOMIC FORECAST LUNCHEON

Insights and analysis shaping Kitsap County's economic future.

April 2, 2026 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort

OPENING KEYNOTE

Representative Emily Randall
Washington's 6th Congressional District



KEDA's 2025 Annual Report & 2026 Economic Strategy

Economic Champion Award

ECONOMIC FORECAST Global Forces, Local Implications *Hart Hodges & James McCafferty*

Co-directors Western Washington University,
Center for Economic & Business Research



SIGN UP TO REGISTER
kitsapeda.me/2026AM

ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

West Sound Magazine



Kitsap Has Ideal Access to Everything

“Since 2014 Inventech Marine Solutions within the Port of Bremerton has been a new technology development group, boat manufacturer, dealer and service center supporting military, fire, police, and the recreational user. We now have over 90,000 square feet of manufacturing space with the completion of our new facility. We've grown with and because of the Kitsap community's talent and the other businesses that call the Pacific Northwest Home. It is an ideal location for American Manufacturing to prosper.”



Jenson Charnell, President
8651 Mount Jupiter Way • Bremerton
inventechmarine.com

Economic Vitality For All – In One Spectacular Place!



Cavalon II, 2021 NW Myhre, Suite 100 • Silverdale
360-377-9499 • www.kitsapeda.org

March KEDA Website Featured Content

A BEHIND-THE-SCENES Q&A ABOUT KITSAP'S MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS WITH JOE MORRISON

6 FEB 2026

Featured Content, Infrastructure, Gorst

THE LONG GAME OF INFRASTRUCTURE—AND WHY IT'S WORTH THE WAIT

As we all know, there are numerous infrastructure projects happening in and around our area, from stormwater improvements affecting ferry routes to fixing a major transportation pain point.



JOE MORRISON, KEDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We completely understand how challenging (and frustrating!) it can be to navigate around them. So, today we're sitting down with KEDA's Executive Director, Joe Morrison for an inspired Q&A session.

We wanted to pull the curtain back and give you more of a behind-the-scenes look at projects like these and also ask Joe for some practical advice on how to best deal with them.

If there's a question that we missed, we'd love to hear from you!

THE CHALLENGES...

What is the single most logistical hurdle decision makers face when trying to get these major projects off the ground?

Well, the first is available budget and funding capacity—which is really challenging these days, as the State of Washington and many jurisdictions are facing budgetary pressures.

But after that, if you have the money available to build infrastructure, I'd say it's the overall time to execute. I can think of three projects where partial funding was identified two or three years ago, and we have yet to break ground. Infrastructure takes a long time to bring forward.

There is good news: While it's not fast, infrastructure is typically well-done here in Washington.

New Resources on our website



\$10+ billion in federal investment is driving long-term industrial demand in Kitsap County.

RECENT MARKET SIGNALS:

The U.S. Navy is making a once in a century investment in Puget Sound Naval Shipyard through its Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program (SIOP)— creating **sustained demand** for modern industrial, logistics, and supplier facilities.

- **2026:** Navy seeks 140,000 sq. ft. of warehouse space
- **2025:** Navy seeks:
 - a. 270,000 sq. ft. of industrial/warehouse space
 - b. 350,000 sq ft of laydown space
- Two Bremerton industrial buildings (49,000 sq ft) sell for \$9.2M, a 3x premium over 2016 price.



Twelve Trees Industrial Park

www.twelvetrees.com

- North Kitsap's largest industrial park with regional Navy access
- 260,000+ sq. ft. near SR-3, ferry routes, & major freight carriers

Port of Bremerton

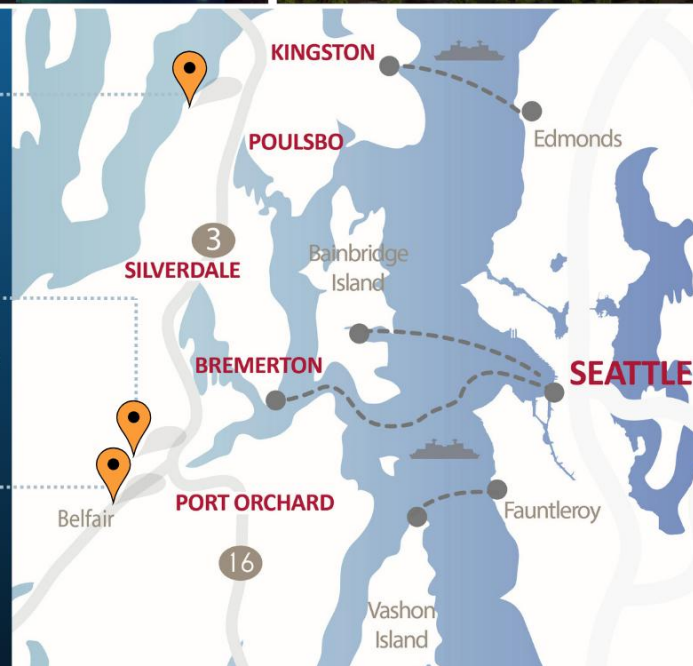
portofbremerton.org

- Largest greenfield industrial site west of Puget Sound
- Pad ready sites, Foreign Trade Zone, rail access, airport
- Established industrial employee base

Puget Sound West

pugetsoundwest.com

- Proposed 1.4M+ sq. ft. Class A industrial
- Easy access on SR 3 for regional logistics and freight mobility
- Flexible industrial layout with build-to-suit opportunities for large-scale operations



KITSAP EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMY REPORTS

<p>KITSAP QUICK FACTS</p>	<p>INDUSTRIAL ASSETS</p>	<p>KITSAP COUNTY PROFILE</p>	<p>TOP EMPLOYERS</p>
<p>2019-2024 PERMIT DATA</p>	<p>2025 KITSAP COUNTY COST OF LIVING</p>	<p>KITSAP COUNTY HOUSING AFFORDABILITY</p>	<p>QUARTERLY TOP 20 EMPLOYMENT REPORT</p>
<p>KITSAP INDUSTRIAL LAND, BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY</p>	<p>ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE</p>	<p>WASHINGTON STATEWIDE DEFENSE ECONOMY IMPACT STUDY</p>	<p>OLYMPIC COLLEGE - ECONOMIC VALUE</p>



kitsapeda.org/doing-business/research-and-report

Partnering to Amplify Kitsap Opportunities

SPONSORED WEBINARS WITH OLYMPIC COLLEGE



AIRBNB HOSTING: GET GUEST READY
\$19 March 5 Online

Video & Slide
Decks will be
posted on KEDA
website



BECOME A RIDESHARE DRIVER
\$19 April 8 Online

FUNDING ALERT!

**FY27
CONGRESSIONAL
DIRECTED SPENDING**

SENATOR PATTY MURRAY
Applications due by 8:00PM PT on Weds March 25th

FUNDING ALERT!

**FY27
CONGRESSIONAL
DIRECTED SPENDING**

SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL
Applications due Monday, 3/8/26 by 11:59pm

FUNDING ALERT!

**FY27
COMMUNITY
PROJECT FUNDS**

REP. EMILY RANDALL
Applications due Monday, 3/05 by 11:59pm

KEDA providing
letters of support
as requested



Operations Report

FY 2025–2026 | Q3

**Economic Vitality for All
in One Spectacular Place**

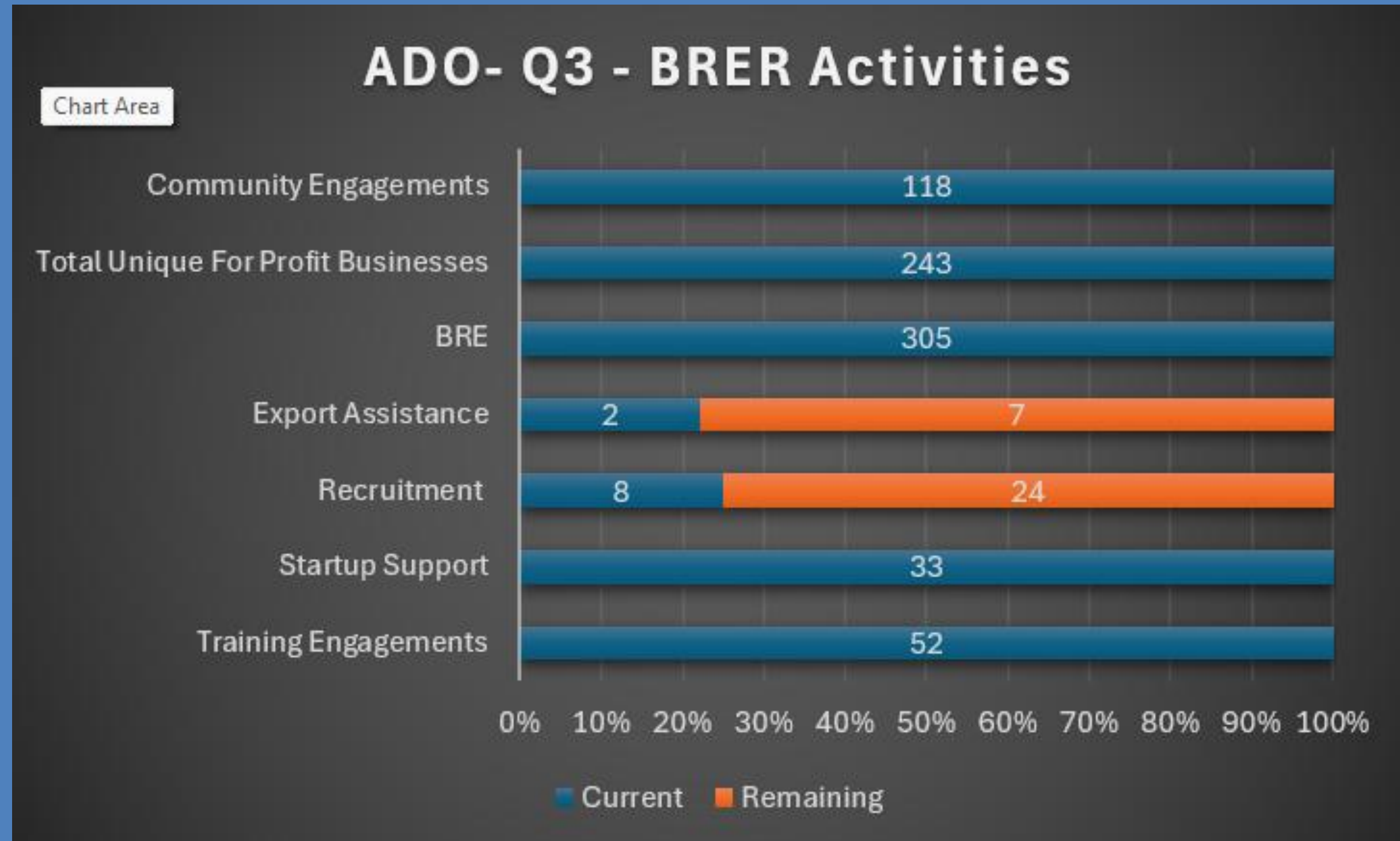
kitsapeda.org



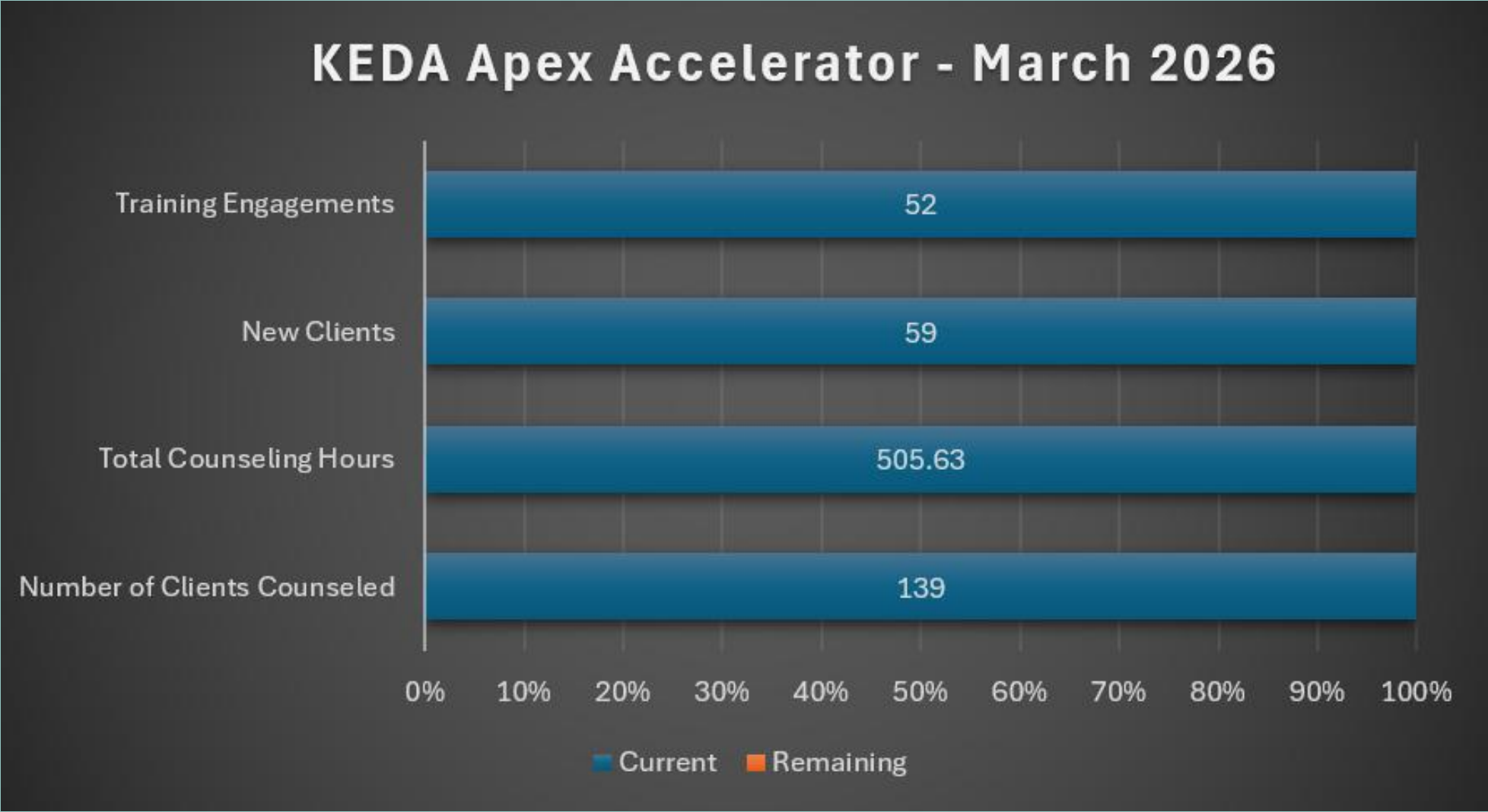
ADO Q3 COM Metrics Interaction KPIs



Current FY 2025-2026



Apex Accelerator



APEX Corner



Get help with your government contracting questions

CONTRACTING COFFEE HOUR

1st Weds of the Month
8-10 am - online



APEX Classes

MEET KEDA'S GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING EXPERTS

KITSAP WASHINGTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE **APEX**
ACCELERATOR



TERRY HOMBURG **MARY JO JUAREZ**

Unlock insider knowledge with former Naval contracting officers Terry Homburg and Mary Jo Juarez. Their unique backgrounds and expertise make them invaluable guides, equipped to help businesses navigate the complexities of government contracting.

- Request for Equitable Adjustment
- Getting Paid with DoD's Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) System
- Cybersecurity Requirements for DOD Contractors

WORKFORCE

RESEARCH

**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**

KITSAP



WORKFORCE



- Maritime Trades CTE Connections and Credentials
- Kitsap Builders Association Trades Taskforce – Construction in Motion and Middle School Visits – Ongoing
- Olympic College - Workforce Development
- Blue Blur (Olympic College) and Jobs For the Future (JFF)
- SHRM West Sound formerly WASHRMA
- CTE General Advisory Committee CKSD
- Olympic Workforce Development Council
- KCHP Healthcare System Workgroup
- West Sound STEM Network
- July Workforce Roundtable

RESEARCH



- **Top Employers Project 2025**
- **Quarterly Employment Report**
- **CEBR Economic Impacts – NKU and Kingston Stakeholders FIFA presentation**
- **Vacant Storefronts Study**
- **Mason County Sewer Extension**
- **WSSN Q1 2026 Report**


COMMUNITY OUTREACH



- Native Chamber of Commerce
- TAPS connection to Maritime
- Bainbridge Economic Development Team – Community and Housing Update
- Kingston Economic Development Team Branding Information
- FIFA World Cup Continued
- Individual Services

MEDIA & ADVERTISING

March Kitsap Business Magazine



Kitsap's Premier Business Event
KEDA ANNUAL MEETING
ECONOMIC FORECAST LUNCHEON
Insights and analysis shaping Kitsap County's economic future.
April 2, 2026 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort

OPENING KEYNOTE

Representative Emily Randall
Washington's 6th Congressional District



KEDA's 2025 Annual Report & 2026 Economic Strategy

Economic Champion Award

ECONOMIC FORECAST Global Forces, Local Implications

Hart Hodges & James McCafferty
Co-directors Western Washington University,
Center for Economic & Business Research



SIGN UP TO REGISTER
kitsapeda.me/2026AM

ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Kitsap Sun – March 28, 2026

SO... IS THE ECONOMY ACTUALLY OKAY?

9 APR 2026 Economy, AI, Economic Forecast, Featured Story

Originally published in the Kitsap Sun, this article was updated with information from KEDA's Annual Meeting and Economic Forecast on April 9.



Joe Morrison, KEDA Executive Director
morrison@kitsapeda.org

My new favorite pastime is filling up my gas tank whenever it's half full. That and monitoring prices per gallon like I never have before.



WARNING SIGNS ARE HARD TO IGNORE

Related, on Tuesday Goldman Sachs increased their probability of the US entering a recession this year to 30 percent. That same day Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said his firm's model now forecasts recession risk at 49 percent, "pointing to stagnant retail sales, declining vehicle purchases, and weak home sales as evidence that consumers are struggling," according to Seeking Alpha.

While Moody's is the most bearish of them all, they are something of an outlier. Despite increasing risk, most economists believe it remains unlikely the US will enter into recession this year. Remarkable. It's amazing the body blows our economy can take and keep barreling along.

Over the course of the past year-plus, the US economy has absorbed increasing risk. About a year ago many of us were shook by the implementation of sudden, unclear, volatile tariff policies. American firms and consumers gritted their teeth, moving on while paying for 90 percent of those cost increases. Last week the national debt passed the \$39 trillion mark, about 1.25 times more than the US produces each year in GDP. Demand for office space has plummeted, particularly in US downtowns, where the value of many commercial buildings has dropped by almost 50 percent in five years.

THE BIG BET ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Despite all this, despite war, our economy currently seems to be handling all of this risk. I'd argue that right now the economy is also absorbing an even larger risk almost totally unique to America: The titanic valuation we're placing on Artificial Intelligence. In 2025 the US poured a half-trillion dollars into building new data centers. AI startups raised \$150 billion, and later-stage private and corporate strategic investments push that number even higher. I'm less worried about AI blowing up every job in the nation, and more worried about it potentially blowing up the US stock market



For most of the last year just seven stocks in the S&P 500 made up 30% or more of that index's value, and at times represented up to 40% of the index's returns. You know the names: Nvidia, Amazon, Microsoft, Apple, Tesla, Meta, Alphabet. Our



CHAD MELTON NAMED WEDA 2026 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

MAR 9 2026

KEDA Vice Chair and Healthcare Leader
Recognized for Advancing Workforce
Development, Regional Investment, and
Healthcare Expansion in Kitsap County
KITSAP COUNTY, WA – Chad Melton, Interim President,
Puget Sound Market and President of St. Michael
Medical Center, has been named the 2026
Economic Development Advocate of the Year by
the Washington...

New Resources on our website

KEDA'S FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Welcome to Kitsap County! Here are some Frequently Asked Questions about the economic ecosystem of our area, ranging from general inquiries about who we are and what we do to the abundance of support services for businesses in our amazing, Pacific Northwest community.

For more detailed information, please contact us at info@kitsapeda.org or 360-377-9499.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE KITSAP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE? +

HOW IS THE KITSAP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE FUNDED? +

IS THE KITSAP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE A MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION? +

WHY SHOULD I INVEST IN THE KITSAP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE? +

ARE THERE DIFFERENT INVESTOR LEVELS? +

DOING BUSINESS IN KITSAP COUNTY

DOES THE KITSAP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE PROVIDE BUSINESS SERVICES? +

WHAT ARE THE LOCATION ADVANTAGES OF DOING BUSINESS IN KITSAP COUNTY? +

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

CAN THE KITSAP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE HELP ME BID ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING JOBS? +

WHAT IS THE SHIPYARD INFRASTRUCTURE OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM? +

CAN SMALL BUSINESSES BID ON SHIPYARD INFRASTRUCTURE OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM PROJECTS? +

WHERE CAN I BID ON SHIPYARD INFRASTRUCTURE OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM PROJECTS? +

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

DOES THE KITSAP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE OFFER SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES? +

SITE SELECTORS

DOING BUSINESS PROPERTIES WORKFORCE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING LIFESTYLE ABOUT NEWS

KITSAP EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMY REPORTS

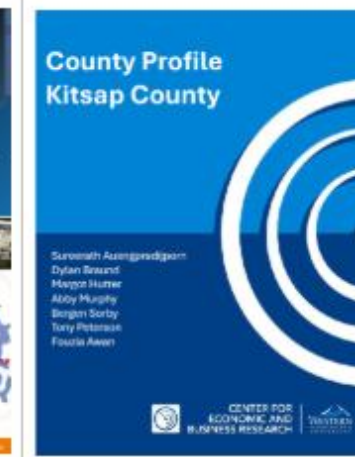
KITSAP QUICK FACTS



INDUSTRIAL ASSETS



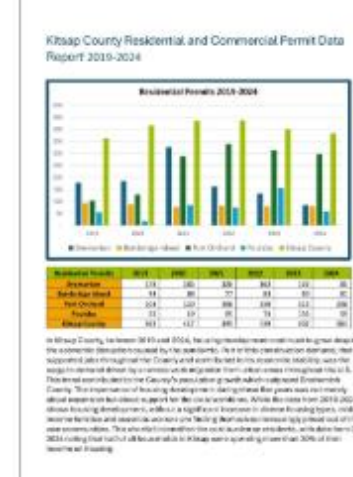
KITSAP COUNTY PROFILE



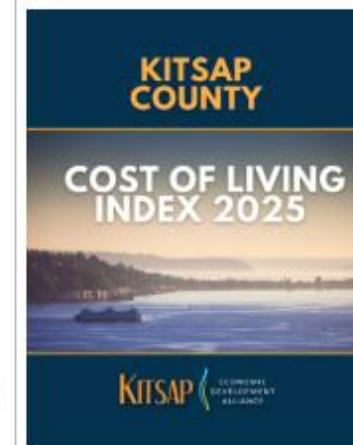
TOP EMPLOYERS

Employer	Employees	Industry
Boeing	14,000	Aerospace
Bojiac	10,000	Manufacturing
Bojiac	10,000	Manufacturing
Bojiac	10,000	Manufacturing
Bojiac	10,000	Manufacturing

2019-2024 PERMIT DATA



2025 KITSAP COUNTY COST OF LIVING



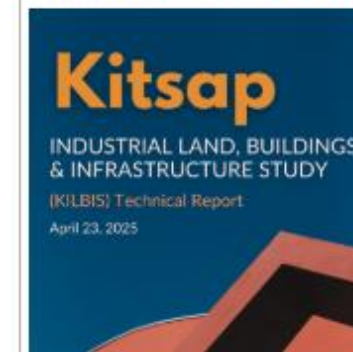
NORTH KITSAP UNITED ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ANALYSIS



QUARTERLY TOP 20 EMPLOYMENT REPORT



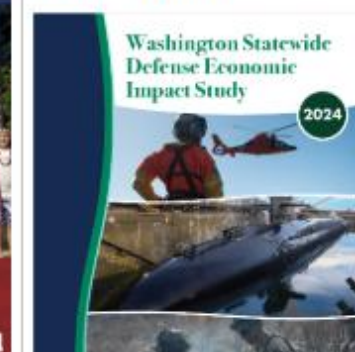
KITSAP INDUSTRIAL LAND, BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY



ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE



WASHINGTON STATEWIDE DEFENSE ECONOMY IMPACT STUDY



KITSAP COUNTY HOUSING AFFORDABILITY



kitsapeda.org/doing-business/research-and-report

Partnering to Amplify Kitsap Opportunities

HEALTHCARE REDESIGN

Developed by a Kitsap Community Health Priorities (KCHP)

HEALTHCARE - ONE OF KITSAP'S MOST IMPORTANT SECTORS

Healthcare is one of Kitsap County's most important industries, supporting thousands of jobs while strengthening the health and well-being of the community. A diverse network of hospitals, clinics, behavioral health providers, Tribal health, and community health organizations delivers essential services and serves as a major economic driver.

The sector's impact is amplified through strong partnerships among healthcare providers, educators, and public agencies working together to improve health outcomes and build workforce pathways for the future. These collaborations support education, training, career advancement, and innovative approaches to care—creating a healthcare ecosystem that advances both community health and long-term economic vitality in Kitsap County.

BUILD YOUR HEALTHCARE CAREER IN KITSAP COUNTY

Kitsap County offers the rare balance many healthcare professionals seek: a place where you can deliver meaningful, community-centered care while enjoying a high quality of life. With a growing and diverse population, Kitsap provides a dynamic clinical environment allowing clinicians to practice at the top of their license and make a visible impact on community health outcomes. Collaboration is part of the culture here, with local organizations, schools, Tribes, and healthcare partners working together to support whole-person care.

For those entering the healthcare workforce, Kitsap County also provides strong healthcare education programs and career-launching support, including healthcare training programs at Olympic College and clear career pathways offered by multiple local employers.

FIND OPEN POSITIONS



HEALTHCARE EDUCATION AND ADVANCE PLACEMENTS



KEDA SPONSORED OC WEBINARS

AIRBNB HOSTING: GET GUEST READY
\$19 March 5 Online

Video & Slide Decks
Free on KEDA website



[KitsapHealthCareers.org](https://www.kitsaphealthcareers.org)

BECOME A RIDESHARE DRIVER
\$19 April 8 Online

City of Port Orchard Building Refacing Grant Program

Purpose:

The City of Port Orchard has historic and unique buildings, as well as many unique and thriving businesses. The Downtown Building Refacing Grant Program is intended to revitalize Bay Street by improving the appearance, durability, and long-term value of existing commercial buildings. This program provides a structured, incentive-based approach to encourage façade improvements while preserving the historic character of downtown. This program serves multiple public purposes, including downtown revitalization, economic development, improved pedestrian experience, and enhancement of the visual character of the community.

The Downtown Revitalization Grant Program seeks to preserve and enhance the charm of the City's downtown, waterfront commercial area through strategic physical improvements to buildings. This program is designed to create immediate, visible improvements to downtown Port Orchard while minimizing financial barriers. The goal is to encourage investment in the community and enhance the Bay Street experience.

This program is modeled after the City of Auburn's Façade Improvement Grant program, which has been in operation since 2016.

Program Details:

Through the Downtown Building Refacing Grant Program, the City will provide façade improvement grants to facilitate exterior building (façade) improvements for properties within a designated Business Improvement Area (BIA) in 2026. This BIA is defined to include buildings with street frontage Bay Street between Fredrick Avenue and Harrison Avenue, which are highly visible and a key portion of historic downtown. These property upgrades will improve the area's overall visual appearance and as a result, attract business, visitors and residents. The primary goal of the grants will be to improve the appearance of the City's commercial core.

1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligibility Requirements:

Eligible applicants are limited by the following parameters:

- Commercial or mixed-use buildings, and the applicant shall be the Property owner(s) or Business lessee with written authorization of the property owner;
- Propose a refacing project that shall meet code requirements, follow all local and state laws, and follow all current design standards;

- Project site must be within the Business Improvement Area, located within the Downtown Bay Street area (along Bay Street between Fredrick Avenue and Harrison Avenue);
- No existing legal restrictions on property;
- Qualifying facades must be visible from Bay Street, and improvements utilizing grant fundings are limited to primary street-facing elevations;
- Work must begin within 30 days of permit issuance and work must be completed within 60 days

Applicants as follows are ineligible for grant program:

- Business with more than 25 full-time employees
- Government office and agency (non-governmental tenants are eligible)
- Newly constructed building (constructed after the adoption of this program)

Types of Improvements Eligible for Grant Funding:

Eligible grant applications shall be limited to those seeking to perform eligible work, using eligible materials, as follows:

- Brick and Stone Masonry - Structural repairs, cleaning, repointing, and resurfacing
- Architectural Metals - Repair, cleaning, refinishing, painting, duplication, and restoration of exterior building components, e.g., cast iron, pressed tin
- Doors and Windows - Maintenance, repairs, replacement, and restoration of window sashes, exterior doors, and installation of storm windows in conjunction with other significant façade improvements
- Exterior Carpentry - Maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and restoration of sills, window and door frames, bulkheads, storefront and roof cornices, window hoods, and decorative molding
- Storefronts - Removal of coverings and additions, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, restoration of display and transom windows, and lighting
- Painting - Surface preparation, cleaning and painting
- Awnings - Maintenance, installation, repair, or replacement of awnings. Awnings to be replaced must show considerable wear as determined by the City Building Official.
- Exterior Lighting – Installation, retrofitting, replacement
- Handicapped Access Projects - Ramps, thresholds, entrances (only in conjunction with other design improvements)
- Murals Or Other Permanent, Affixed Art Work – based on review and approval

- Approved Materials must be consistent with the requirement of Port Orchard Municipal Code 20.127.450. Examples of Approved Materials (with emphasis for durability amid waterfront environmental conditions):
 - Hardie Board Siding (or comparable fiber cement siding)
 - Durable and long-lasting
 - Low maintenance
 - Structurally stable
 - Masonry Stone Veneer
 - Highly durable and weather-resistant
 - Strong visual enhancement
 - Cost-effective design impact
 - Supports long-term return on investment
 - Exterior Paint
 - Approved for façade enhancement and finishing
 - Must be high-quality, weather-resistant coatings
 - Encouraged to use historic coastal color palettes consistent with port communities – see Port Townsend Historic District palette recommended as inspiration
 - Typical palette includes muted earth tones, coastal blues/greens, creams, ivories, and soft whites
 - Coordinated color schemes encouraged
 - Shutters (Vinyl, Composite, PVC)
 - Approved as architectural accents
 - Composite and PVC preferred for durability and low maintenance

Ineligible work that cannot be proposed for grant funding is as follows:

- New building construction
- Additions to existing structures
- Proprietary signage and billboards
- Any interior work or decoration
- Non-fabric awnings
- Non-permanent fixtures (i.e. freestanding planters, stands, holders)
- On-site or off-site paving
- Public sidewalk repair/restoration/replacement
- Payment for the applicant’s own labor and performance for improvements
- Purchase of furnishings, equipment, or other personal property

- Repair or creation of features not compatible with the original architecture or that are artificial in appearance
- Roof repairs/replacements
- Structural foundations
- Shipping costs

Project Categories and Associated Grant Matching:

To ensure shared investment and maximize the public benefit of Program funds, all grants shall require a matching contribution from the applicant, structured in proportion to the scope, impact, and cost of the proposed project, as follows:

- **Small-Scale Projects.** For projects with a total eligible project cost of up to \$5,000, the applicant shall not require a matching. Most of these projects should not require stamped construction documents provided by an independent architect or engineer. These projects focus on immediate, eye-catching changes, such as painting, decorative lighting, or trim.
- **Mid-Scale Projects.** For projects with a total eligible project cost between \$5,001 and \$25,000, the applicant shall provide a minimum match of thirty (30) percent of total project costs. Improvements in this category are likely to require professional design services (architectural or engineering), and will require graduated matching contributions (cash, loan, and in-kind contributions) from the property and/or business owner(s). These improvements include window, door, or storefront upgrades; masonry work; façade material upgrade or change (could include framing); and significant lighting upgrades; significant carpentry/molding/trim improvements.
- **Large-Scale Projects.** For projects with a total eligible project cost greater than \$25,001, the applicant shall provide a minimum match of at least fifty (50) percent of total project costs. Improvements in this category are likely to require professional design services (architectural or engineering), and will require graduated matching contributions (cash, loan, and in-kind contributions) from the property and/or business owner(s). These improvements include facade restoration; significant structural or electrical work (needed to execute a façade design); significant historic restoration; and complete façade re-design/re-construction.

Form of Match. The applicant match may consist of loan, cash expenditures or documented in-kind contributions directly related to the approved project, as defined in Program guidelines, provided that in-kind contributions shall not exceed seventy-five (75) percent of the total required match.

- Evidence of the loan must be provided to complete the application.
- Cash must be paid either up front or on a pre-established schedule concurrent with construction and agreed upon by the City and contractor. These monies must be paid in advance of City funding, unless the City agrees to pay for materials in advance of construction.

Graduated Matching For Mid- and Large-Scale Projects: These projects will work under a graduated scale; as the budget increases, the matching contribution responsibility gently shifts toward the business or property owner. The match can be in the form of a loan, cash, or in-kind contribution.

Verification: All matching contributions must be documented to the satisfaction of the City prior to reimbursement of grant funds.

Adjustment Authority: The Director may adjust match requirements on a case-by-case basis, consistent with Program guidelines, to advance Program objectives, including support for small businesses, historically underserved applicants, or projects with exceptional public benefit.

2. APPLICATION AND DOCUMENTATION PROCESS

Application and Design Process:

1. Contact Department of Community Development expressing interest in program;
2. Schedule informational visit and preliminary assessment;
3. Download forms from the Department of Community Development ;
4. Based on initial assessment, applicant shall:
 - Develop Cost Estimate
 - Procure Architect with own resources
 - Work with design professional(s) and technical assistance to prepare application materials
5. Submit application to Department of Community Development
6. After determining completeness, application will be reviewed by committee
7. Final approval will be given by City Council, and a letter will be sent to applicant
8. Grant recipient will execute associated agreements consistent with the program.

Construction Process

1. Owners and Contractors must sign contracts with the City; at the time of contract execution, all files will be reviewed for compliance with legal, licensing, and liability concerns
2. Notice to proceed will be issued
3. Contractor and/or business owner must apply for permits
4. Materials may be purchased prior to construction
5. Construction may begin after permits are issued
6. Final inspection by Public Works and/or Building Divisions
7. Payment will be issued upon submittal of invoices, with final payment available after satisfactory completion of project

Required Grant Agreement for Recipients:

As a condition of receiving grant funds, each recipient shall enter into a written agreement with the City of Port Orchard to document the public services to be performed by the grant recipient as a result of the grant funding, in a form approved by the City Attorney, which shall:

1. Public Purpose. Identify the public purpose served by the funded improvement(s), including but not limited to downtown revitalization, economic development, improved pedestrian experience, and enhancement of the visual character of the community;
2. Scope of Work. Describe the approved improvements and require that funds be used solely for eligible expenses consistent with Program requirements;
3. Performance Requirements. Establish deadlines for completion and require compliance with all applicable laws, codes, permits, and design standards, including but not limited to:
 - Permits and Compliance: Right-of-way permit required for work impacting sidewalks, streets, or pedestrian areas; Electrical work requires Washington State L&I permit; sidewalk closure or protection may be required for overhead work (with proper permitting, including State of Washington
 - Inspections and Oversight: Pre-construction meeting required to review scope and permits; final inspection required; and City sign-off required prior to reimbursement

- Contractor Responsibilities: Shall be licensed and bonded; shall Identify and document necessary repairs prior to construction; and Ensure compliance with codes and program standards
4. Reimbursement and Documentation. Provide that grant funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis (unless otherwise authorized) upon submission of invoices, proof of payment, and verification of completed work;
 5. Maintenance and Use. Require the recipient to maintain the improvements in good condition for a specified period of time and to use the property in a manner consistent with the Program's public purpose;
 6. Repayment/Clawback. Requiring partial or full repayment of grant funds if the recipient fails to complete the project, violates the terms of the agreement, or ceases to use or maintain the improvements consistent with the public purpose within a defined period;
 7. Permitting, Access and Inspection. Comply with all applicable permit requirements, and allow the City reasonable access to the property for inspection and verification of compliance; and
 8. Other Terms. Include such other terms and conditions as the City deems necessary to ensure that the expenditure of public funds complies with Washington law.

Program Administration.

The Program shall be administered by the Department of Community Development or their designee, who is authorized to:

- Develop application materials and administrative guidelines;
- Establish evaluation criteria and scoring procedures;
- Review and approve grant applications;
- Execute grant agreements; and
- Ensure compliance with applicable laws and Program requirements.

Projects will be reviewed by City staff for eligibility, compliance, and consistency with downtown character. Final approval is required prior to project start.