

# STIMULATING

## OUR 21ST CENTURY ECONOMY

**K**ing County has built and maintained important elements of our region's physical and economic infrastructure, contributing to creation of tens of thousands of jobs.

**Creating family wage jobs** – Thousands of jobs will be created as King County invests nearly \$300 million in roads over the next six years. During 2002-2004, more than 1,000 construction workers were employed in major county capital projects including courthouse renovation, remodel of the county hospital, and construction and equipping of a regional communications and emergency center.

**Brightwater: planning regionally, the key to steady job growth** – Regional economic growth will stop without added wastewater treatment capacity. Construction of the county's \$1.3 billion Brightwater wastewater facility will create 20,000 jobs, both direct and spin-off over the life of the project, including 6,000 building-trade jobs as well

as indirect employment for people who will manufacture equipment for the facility.

### **Jobs and Job Support**

- **King County Jobs Initiative (KCJI)** helps low-income and disadvantaged people build job skills and increase their ability to compete in today's job markets. Since 1998, the KCJI has served over 1,400 clients and placed 917 clients into full time jobs with an overall job retention rate of 85 percent.
- **WorkSource Renton** is the premier and largest WorkSource "one-stop" employment center in Washington State and is recognized widely for initiating best practices employment services in Seattle-King County. It has 28 on-site community partners and reported a total of 88,765 customer visits in 2004.
- **Dislocated Worker Program** served thousands of dislocated workers during the recession, and received the Governor's Award for Workforce Best

**King County International Airport contributes \$1.6 billion regionally and supports 14,000 related jobs.**





*Maritime industries are a critical piece of King County's economy.*



*Investing in the infrastructure that supports the businesses of the region.*

Practices for its partnership effort in the Airport Screeners Project after 9/11. A total of 3,000 dislocated workers were served during the past program year (July 2003 to July 2004) and 1,800 are currently receiving services.

- **YouthSource** is the first and largest comprehensive youth “one-stop” employment and education program located at WorkSource Renton with 14 community partners working together to support at-risk youth. YouthSource currently has 573 active customers.

**A growing airport adds to a growing economy** – King County International Airport (KCIA) operations and businesses contributed more than \$1.6 billion to the regional economy in 2002. KCIA directly supports 3,900 jobs and indirectly supports 10,000 jobs. In 2003 alone, the total economic impact of the jobs and services generated by the KCIA for the region exceeded \$1.6 billion and supported \$500 million in labor income.

**Community Capital Development** – King County partnered with Community Capital Development to create or sustain 197 jobs, assist 150 businesses, and loan \$2.5 million to small businesses in distressed communities. This program also targets women and minority owned businesses that create jobs, develop life-long, transferable skills and create wealth for entrepreneurs.

**Southwest King County Economic Development Initiative** – King County has collaborated with the cities of Burien, Des Moines, Normandy Park, SeaTac and Tukwila, Highline Community College (HCC) and the Port of Seattle to establish and support the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at HCC to serve southwest King County businesses. The SBDC counseled 105 clients, helped businesses increase sales by \$450,000,

aided clients in obtaining \$345,000 in loans and helped generate or save 40 local jobs.

**Bellevue Entrepreneur Center**— King County has served in a leadership position with the Bellevue Entrepreneur Center, assisting eastside King County businesses with over 5,447 hours of counseling and consulting that helped retain and create 215 jobs. This partnership includes King County, City of Bellevue, Bellevue Chamber, Bellevue Community College, City University, Community Capital Development, Eastside Commercial Bank, Key Bank, Port of Seattle, Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Center, S.C.O.R.E. and the University of Washington, Bothell. The center had an estimated local economic impact of \$17 million.

**Export Promotion** — King County is a co-sponsor of the annual export promotion symposium attended by hundreds of local small businesses in King County to engage in our growing export market. In 2005 the symposium and mentor program will be expanded countywide and the symposium will take place on March 23, 2005 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.

#### **White Center Business District**

**Revitalization** — King County has worked with several businesses and property owners, as well as the School of Architecture at the University of Washington and the White Center Community Development Association, to improve building facades and redevelop the White Center business district.

**Duwamish Training Center** — King County supported expansion of the Duwamish Training Center, the largest apprenticeship training site in the state, in a partnership including Executive Sims with Dr. Jill Wakefield, President of South Seattle Community College and other key local, state and federal stakeholders.



*King County links women and minorities with family wage jobs in the building trades.*

**King County Apprenticeship Program** — This program to provide more access to King County construction jobs has significantly improved apprenticeship opportunities. The 2003 program showed an overall apprenticeship rate of 16.25 percent, a gain of 4.88 percent above the previous year, with over 151,000 hours worked by 296 apprentices.

**King County Contracting Opportunities** — King County provided opportunities for small business participation in county contracts involving goods and consulting services. For example, the small business contract goals for the \$24 million Brightwater Conveyance System Final Design Contract included 10 percent minority-owned businesses enterprises, 6 percent women-owned enterprises and 3 percent small economically disadvantaged businesses.

**Regional Contracting Forum** — King County helped organize this largest local gathering of government agencies from the Puget Sound region and state for the benefit of contractors, consultants and suppliers. Attended by 640 people, this forum provided an opportunity to network, meet public procurement representatives, and learn about public works going out to bid in the next six months.

**Aviation High School** — King County co-founded this 400-student high school with Highline School District and others, focusing on aviation and aerospace opportunities.