

EMPLOYEE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

1. PROGRAM PURPOSE

In furtherance of Kitsap County's vision to foster employee development, Kitsap County Human Resources strives to provide employees with opportunities to participate in strategically directed learning and development. These opportunities are intended to help ensure that our workforce:

- Understands Kitsap County's mission, vision and goals
- Develops and builds upon knowledge, skills, abilities, and competencies specific to fulfilling organizational and departmental objectives and responsibilities associated with the employee's role
- Understands and facilitates a safe work environment
- Has knowledge of County workplace policies and requirements
- Learns about and supports process improvement endeavors
- Has opportunities for career and professional development
- Develops awareness to promote a diverse workforce that feels included and a sense of belonging within Kitsap County
- Has knowledge of employee benefits, resources, and wellness activities to foster employee health and wellbeing
- Is positively affected, which results in an engaged, satisfied and motivated workforce
- Remains flexible and can adapt to changing demands and technology requirements
- Actively engages with our citizens while providing quality and equitable services

2. LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRIORITIES

Employee learning and development activities may include, but are not limited to:

- On-the-job learning and development
- On site presentations, seminars, workshops, and classes
- On-demand, virtual, and hybrid learning via online resources
- Workshops, seminars and conferences sponsored by professional organizations

3. HUMAN RESOURCES RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assisting Employing Officials with the identification and provision of organizational employee learning and development plans.
- Providing curated learning and development curricula and programs

4. LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY LOCATIONS

- Learning and development priorities should be met first through on-site, virtual, or on-demand resources.
- Location, accessibility, safety, and cost are factors in identifying primary locations and activities. When learning or development priorities cannot be met by on site or virtual activities, opportunities should be pursued within the State of Washington or other locations that are within the region and of equivalent distance and cost.
- Exceptions for out-of-state learning or development locations may be considered by

Employing Officials for activities that are unavailable within the State of Washington. Exceptions may also be considered for out-of-state learning or development locations that allow senior managers and Employing Officials to participate in national programs of their respective professional associations.

5. TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FOR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- For other than legally mandated training, travel and enrollment authorization rests with the Employing Official.

6. TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

- At the discretion of the Employing Official, the sponsoring office or department may reimburse tuition for job-related courses taken at colleges, technical, or vocational schools.
- The Employing Official will determine which courses meet these criteria.

7. ELIGIBILITY FOR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES (EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS)

- All Kitsap County regular, full-time, and extra-help employees, Kitsap County volunteers, and Kitsap County interns are eligible to participate in learning and development opportunities offered by Kitsap County, with approval from their Employing Officials.
- Regular full-time and part-time employees receive priority for class space.
- Extra-help employees, volunteers and interns may register on a space available basis.

8. NO SHOW FEE ASSESSMENT

- Failure to cancel registration for Human Resources sponsored learning or development activities at least two days before the event date will result in assessment of a no show fee equivalent to the regular, non-subsidized, course registration fee.
- The No Show Fee applies to both General Fund and non-General Fund offices and departments.