

Mass Timber Regional Training Cluster

AWARD AMOUNT:

\$3,050,000

NON-FEDERAL MATCH

\$762,500



Why a regional mass timber training cluster?

A skilled workforce is critical to the success of Oregon's mass timber industry. Historically, quality, family-supporting jobs in manufacturing and construction trades have been inaccessible to Oregon's underserved communities. Today, investments in forestry career pathways are declining in rural communities, and employment in engineered wood products has declined by 47% since 2001. This project seeks to reverse these trends both by boosting demand for mass timber and preparing workers to fill the high-quality jobs needed in this emerging industry.

The Regional Training Cluster will invest in building a skilled and diverse workforce positioned to assume newly created jobs in forestry, construction, and advanced manufacturing. Workforce investments will prioritize ensuring equitable access for Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC), as well as low-income and rural Oregonians.

Planned actions

- 1 The strategy will establish training locations around the state that connect rural and urban communities to job opportunities in forestry, fabrication, construction, and manufacturing.
- 2 Portland Community College and Worksystems Inc. will create and provide resources for pre-apprenticeship programs, providing space for additional hands-on training and classroom education to meet pre-apprenticeship requirements. Activities will focus on curriculum development, trade construction and manufacturing programs, on-the-job training, and community engagement.
- 3 Investments will support BIPOC and rural entrepreneurship and innovation to create and grow new opportunities in the mass timber ecosystem.



Program Delivery Partners

- 1 **Worksystems, Inc.** will provide culturally specific career navigation services and work with statewide workforce boards to ensure that job and entrepreneurship opportunities are available to diverse populations.
- 2 **Portland Community College** will lead workforce training curriculum development and partner with regional and state community colleges and Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI)-approved pre-apprenticeship programs.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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