



Whitman County Economic Development Informational Meeting (EDIM)

July 22, 2026
11:45 am – 1:30 pm
The Center
110 S. Main St.
Colfax, WA

Follow us on
social media:



www.portwhitman.com

ADO Economic Development Workplan



- Small Business Development
- Economic Profiling
- Existing Business Retention and Expansion
- Business Recruitment, Marketing, and Advertising
- Site and Infrastructure Development
- Economic Development Advocacy

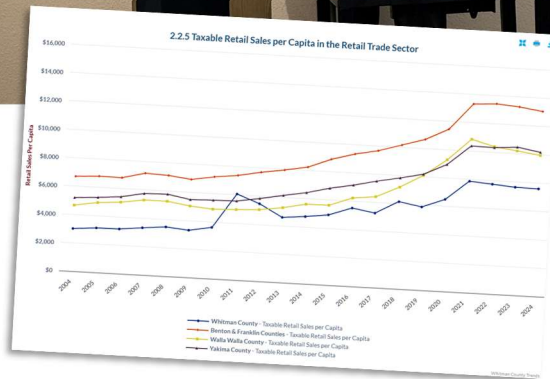
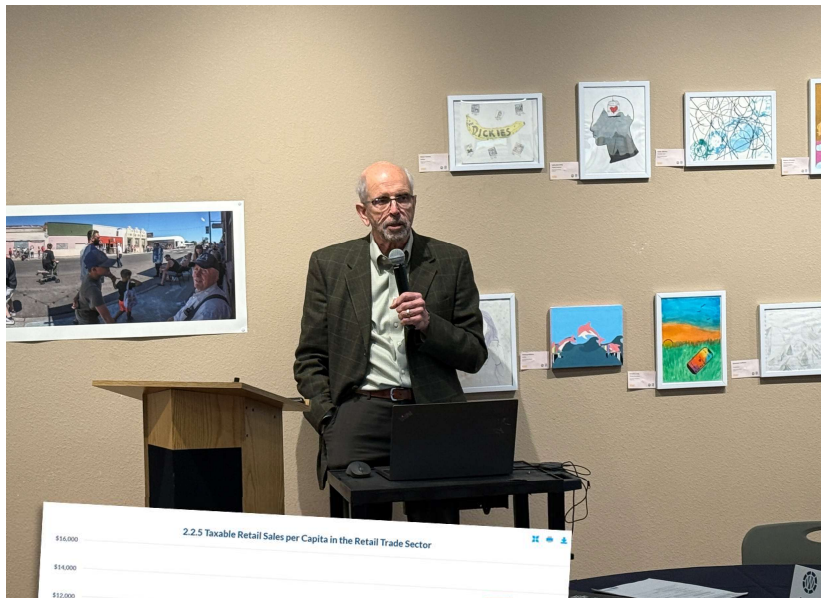
Small Business Development



Port of
Whitman
County



Economic Profiling



Existing Business Retention & Expansion



Final Report Summary

grant

- Strengthened capacity of your organization
- Engagement with entrepreneurs, for Urban Grants - engagement with small scale-manufacturing, childcare, or construction-based entrepreneurs
- Anything else you'd like to add

All grant activities served rural entrepreneurs in Whitman County, a rural persistent poverty county in southeastern Washington. Funding allowed the Port of Whitman County to partner with two community partners and work with an external childcare consultant to support businesses in Colfax, the county seat. The Port of Whitman County has been interested in supporting Whitman County's childcare businesses. As a since 2024, when we received funding to study the feasibility of a new childcare facility in Colfax. As a part of this process, we got to know the only childcare provider in Colfax, who had a new executive director and needed support to stabilize and expand their organizational capacity and childcare availability. Grant funding from the WSMA allowed us to work with Pendulum Dependent Care Solutions to provide specialized technical assistance and training for their business.

For the Colfax Downtown Association (CDA), grant funds strengthened relationships between their organization and local business owners, creating a greater sense of trust, collaboration, and engagement within Colfax's downtown business community. The grant also strengthened the CDA's organization's capacity to provide direct business support services.

CDA staff also shared the following: "Access to professional marketing and business development resources is often limited in rural communities, making this program especially valuable for local entrepreneurs and under-resourced small businesses... One of the greatest successes of this project was the positive response from participating businesses. The demand for individualized assistance and the strong relationships formed throughout the program demonstrated an ongoing need for these services in our community. As a result, we plan to continue offering technical assistance and social media training beyond the grant period to further support small business growth, sustainability, and economic vitality throughout Colfax."

For the Colfax Chamber of Commerce, grant funds strengthened their organizational capacity and ability to serve as a resource for small business owners and economic expansion within Colfax, especially rural business owners and entrepreneurs with disabilities. The majority of the entrepreneurs they served were women (8 out of 13 businesses).

Overall the WSMA funding allowed the Port and our partners to support nineteen businesses in Colfax through a combination of training and technical assistance work.

4. Share any of the key lessons you learned in the process, challenges you had to overcome, changes

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PULLMAN
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE



TEKOA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VISIT, STAY, PLAY
COLFAX, WASHINGTON

Business Recruitment, Marketing & Advertising

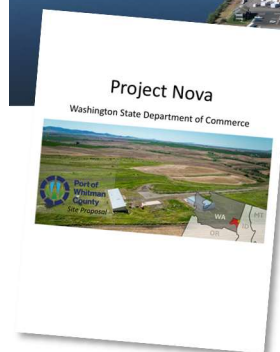
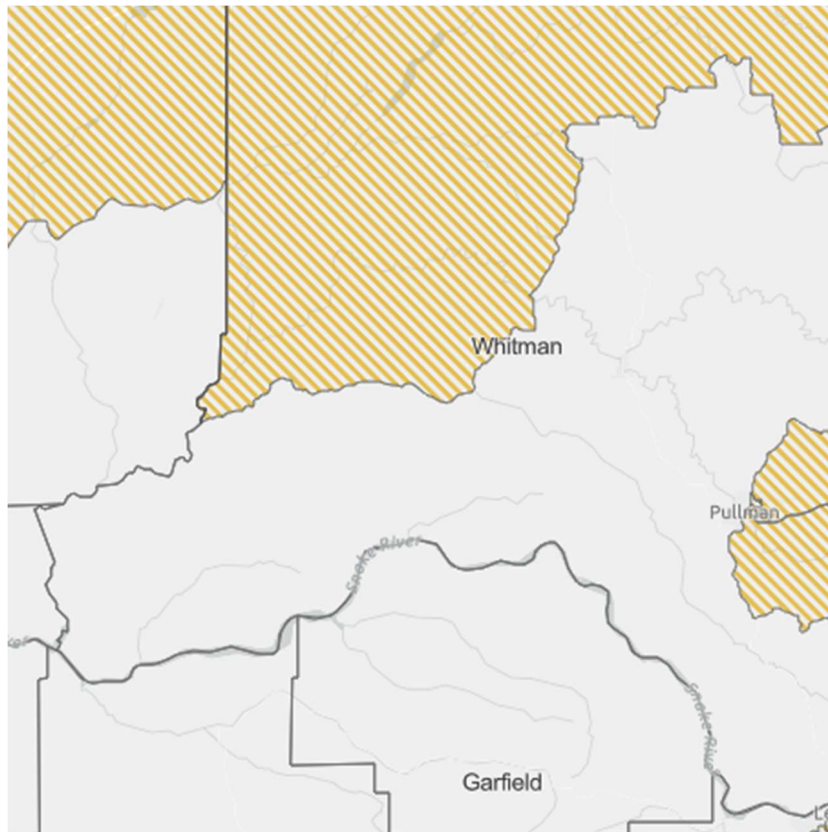


Please join the Port in welcoming its newest tenant at the Port of Wilma

AGPRO Marketing and Manufacturing

Thursday, August 13 | 12 p.m.

1845 Wilma Road Clarkston, WA



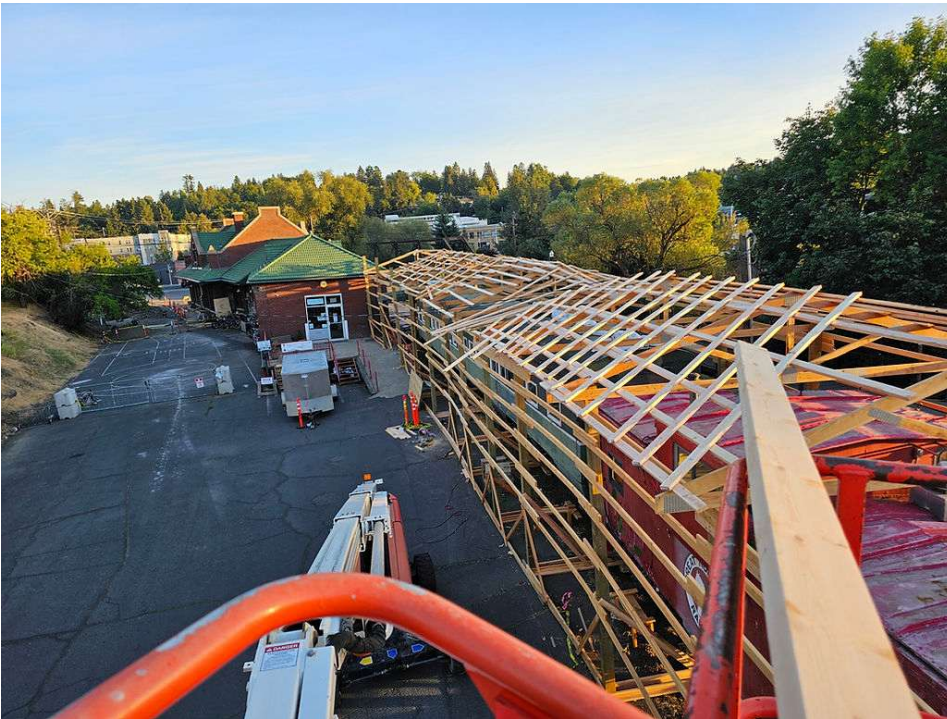
Site & Infrastructure Development



Port of
Whitman
County



Economic Development Advocacy



Port of
Whitman
County



The
**Palouse
Scenic Byway**

Small Business Development Center Report



AMERICA'S SBDC WASHINGTON

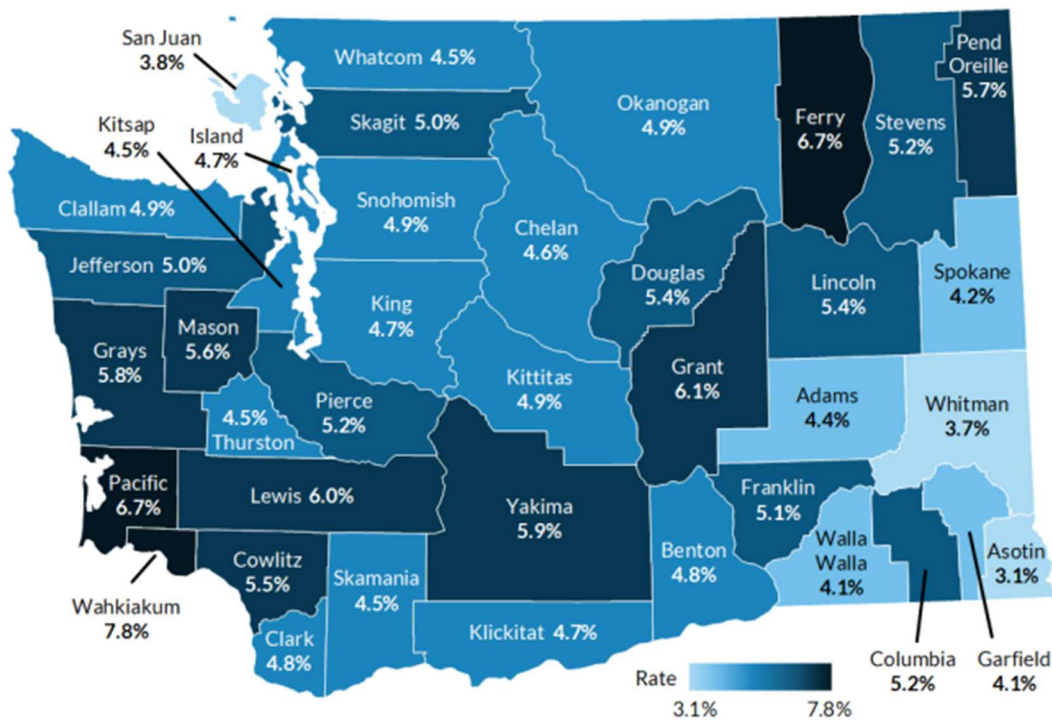
**Washington SBDC & ADO Partnership
County Activity & Impact Report**

County: Whitman
 Quarter Total Date Range: 4.1.26...6.25.26
 Year to Date Range: 1.1.26...6.25.26

Data Elements	Quarter Total	Year to Date
CASE TOTALS (Clients)		
Number of Clients Counseled	20	27
Number of New Clients	5	12
Company Status		
Pre-venture/Nascent		
Startups	6	7
In Business	6	10
CASE TOTALS (Total Hours)	8	10
All Prep + Contact Client Hours		
New Client Hours	47	117
CASE TOTALS (economic impacts)	9	57
Capital Infusion		
Number Businesses Created	\$7,720	\$36,870
Jobs Created	0	3
Change in Sales	0	8
CASE TOTALS (economic indicators)	\$0	\$272,793
Jobs Saved/Retained		
Gross Revenue of Counseled Clients	14	44
DEMOGRAPHICS (Type of Business, # of Clients)	\$366,205	\$366,205
Accommodation and Food Services	3	3
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	0	1
Arts and Entertainment	0	1
Construction	0	1
Educational Services	1	3
Finance and Insurance	0	0
Healthcare and Social Assistance	0	0
Management of Companies and Enterprises	0	0
Manufacturing	2	2
Professional/Technical Services	7	7
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	0	0

Economic Profiling

May 2026 unemployment rate by county



[Monthly employment report](#) | [Employment Security Department](#)



Additional
county-specific
data available at
[whitmancounty
trends.org/](https://whitmancounty.trends.org/)

IACC Project Technical Assistance & Scholarships



- IACC Conference
October 20-22, 2026
Wenatchee Convention Center



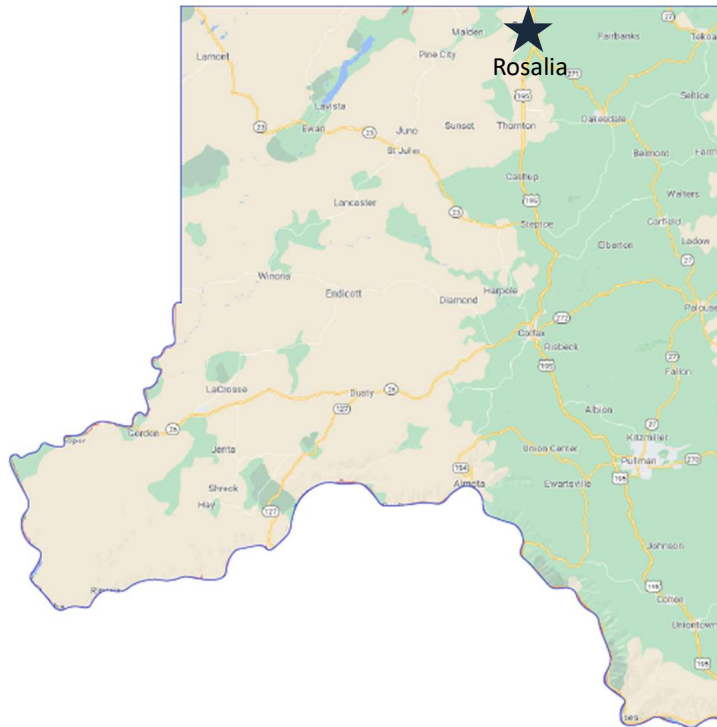
- Priority will go towards towns who have not attended the conference and/or have projects to discuss at Tech Team meetings
- Will support conference registration and/or hotel fees

Rosalia RV Park Tourism Upgrades

- Jacob Billington, Town of Rosalia



Port of
Whitman
County







The Port's Brownfield Funding

2022

\$10,000: Ecology, Brownfield Knowledge Base Project

2023

\$500,000: EPA, Assessment Grant

2025

\$500,000: EPA, Cleanup Grant

2026

\$4 Million: EPA, Cleanup Grant

\$1.5 Million: EPA, Assessment Grant

\$85,000: Ecology, Interagency Agreement

Total: \$6.59 Million



EPA Assessment Grant

Work Completed

- 4 Phase I ESAs
- 7 Phase II ESAs
- 2 Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA)
- 1 Reuse Plan

Grant Amount: \$500,000

Awarded in 2023



St. John Site

St. John, WA

Site Nomination: WHMC

Assessments Conducted: Phase I and Phase II ESAs

Results: Contamination found from the site's prior use as a fuel depot

Next Steps: Received \$500,000 EPA Cleanup Grant. Cleanup to be completed by Fall 2026.



Tekoa Roundhouse

Tekoa, WA

Site Nomination: City of Tekoa

Site Owner: Union Pacific Railroad

Assessments Conducted: Phase I
ESA

Results: Found gaps in owner's
environmental data

Next Steps: Pursue funding for
Phase II ESA



St. Ignatius Hospital

Colfax, WA

Site Nomination: Property Owner

Assessments Conducted: Phase I
ESA, Site Reuse Analysis

Results: Environmental
contamination found, particularly
in old boiler house

Next Steps: Phase II ESA funded
by WA Dept. of Ecology (\$85,000)



Colfax Site

Colfax, WA

Site Nomination: Port

Assessments Conducted: Phase I and Phase II ESAs, Hazardous Building Materials Assessment

Results: Contamination found from past use as seed treatment facility

Next Steps: Demolition slated for early July.



Oakesdale Mill

Oakesdale, WA

Site Nomination: Port

Assessments Conducted: Phase I and Phase II ESAs

Results: Contamination found from the site's prior use as a coal storage facility

Next Steps: Conduct cleanup. Potential funding sources identified.

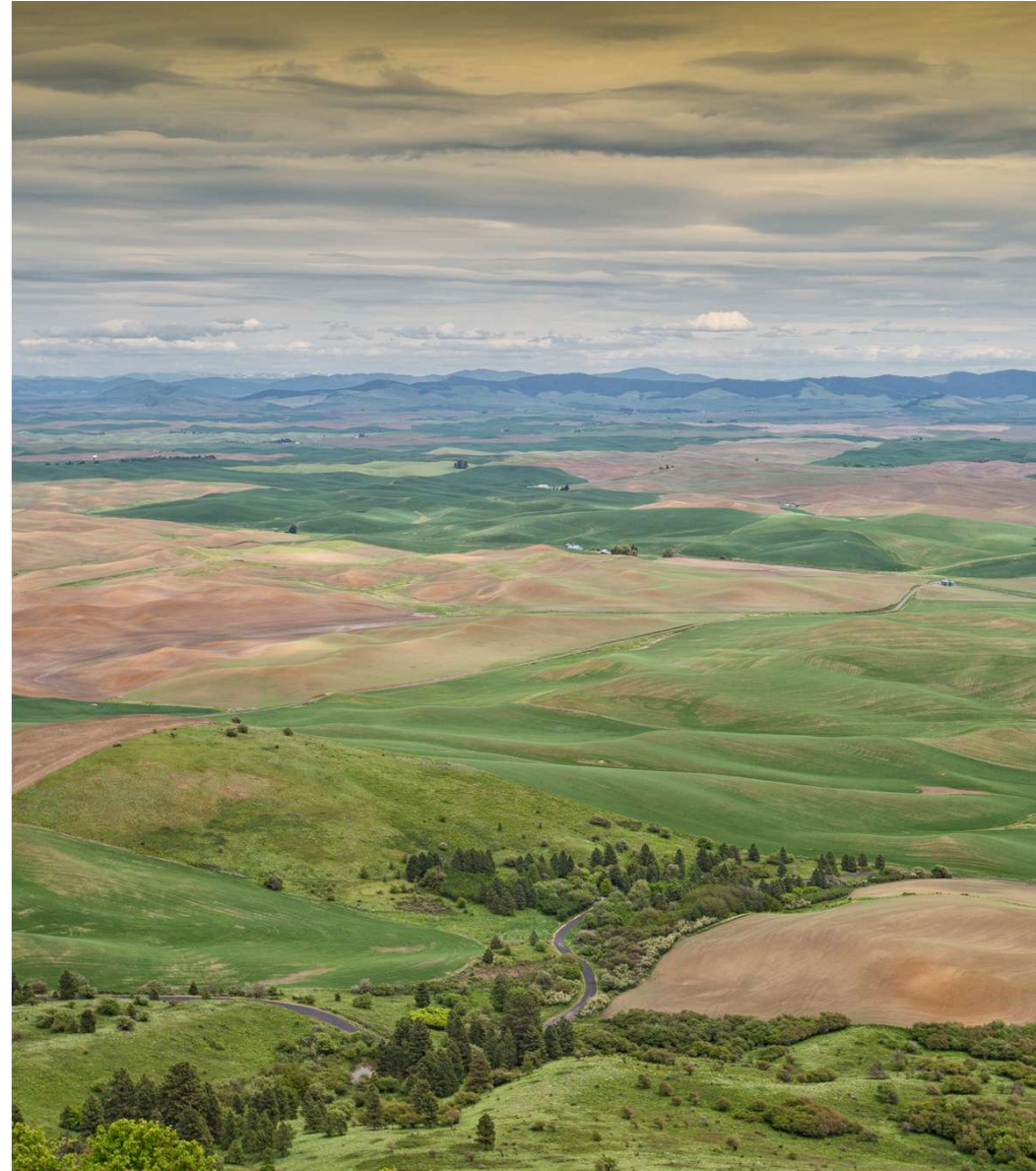


What's next?

On June 24, the EPA announced that the Port received ...

\$4 million for cleanup of the Rogers Brothers Site

\$1.5 million for County-wide environmental assessments



Legislative Coalition Update



SUMMIT
STRATEGIES



Port of
Whitman
County

Legislative Coalition

- Next meeting: August 12, 2-3 p.m. at Port office (with a virtual option)
- Come with projects to discuss with the group!

WASHINGTON STATE

Legislative Champion Outreach Kit

Capital Budget Request — Local & Community Projects Program

Prepared by: Carlson Public Affairs For: Public Sector Clients — Washington State

How to Use This Kit

This kit gives you the core materials you need to approach your state legislators and ask them to champion your capital budget request. Each section is a fill-in template — complete it for your specific project, then use the finished pages in your legislator meetings and follow-up communications.

The kit includes three components:

- Project One-Pager — a one-page summary you leave with the legislator or their staff
- Talking Points — three to five bullet points your champion can use when pitching the project internally
- Proviso Language Guidance — a note on how proviso language works and how to get it drafted correctly

Tip: Complete the Project Information block on the next page first — that information flows into all three components.

Project Information

Complete this section before filling out any other part of the kit. This is your single source of truth for all outreach materials.

Jurisdiction	Name of your city, town, port, district, county, or tribe
Project Name	Short, descriptive name (e.g., 'Main Street Water Main Replacement')
Project Location	Address or general location (e.g., 'Downtown Albion, Whitman County')
Project Type	e.g., infrastructure, facility renovation, acquisition, broadband, other
Total Project Cost	\$
State Funding Requested	\$ (this biennium)
Local Match Amount	\$ (source: e.g., reserves, federal grant, bonds)
Target Session	e.g., 2027 biennial session
Primary Contact	Name, title, phone, email



**Port of
Whitman
County**

Closing

Follow us on
social media:



Email: ado@portwhitman.com
Next EDIM: September 16, 2026



www.portwhitman.com