As one of Washington State’s largest employers, providing more than 50,000 jobs, Microsoft has for decades worked to enhance economic growth for all, create new opportunities for more individuals to participate in that growth, and protect and improve the quality of life enjoyed by Washington residents.

**NEXT GENERATION WASHINGTON**

- Microsoft supports a balanced legislative agenda that takes a comprehensive approach to enhance economic growth, create new opportunities for more individuals to participate in that growth, and protect and improve the quality of life enjoyed by Washington residents.

- Our recap of the 2019 legislative session can be found here, outlining the progress Washington made and what key areas will need to be addressed next session.

**EDUCATION**

**Washington State Opportunity Scholarship**

The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship is a first-of-its-kind, public-private scholarship that supports Washington students from low- and middle-income households to attain bachelor’s degrees in high-demand fields including science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and health care through scholarships.

- Microsoft worked with others to help create WSOS and to date has donated $35 million to the organization.

- More than 6,700 students have received support from WSOS. 61% are women, 64% are students of color and 65% are first-generation college students.

- 81% of WSOS graduates remain in Washington state.

- In 2018, at the urging of Microsoft and other WSOS supporters, the legislature authorized expansion of scholarship eligibility to include students intending to pursue degrees and certificate programs at the state’s 34 community and technical colleges.

**Washington STEM**

Microsoft helped co-found and continues to support Washington STEM, an extremely effective statewide network of business and education professionals.

- In 2018, The Washington state legislature allocated $12.5 million in the capital budget, via Washington STEM, to deliver the tools teachers and students need to develop leading-edge STEM skills.

- Since 2010, Microsoft has donated over $16.25M to the organization.
Global Innovation Exchange

The Global Innovation Exchange (GIX) is an academic institute established by the University of Washington and Tsinghua University in Bellevue. In 2015, Microsoft donated $40 million toward the Global Innovation Exchange; a tech-focused graduate school and first physical presence of a Chinese university in the U.S.

- Last September, GIX opened its new state-of-the-art building, named after former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer.
- In 2017, University of British Columbia announced its academic partnership with GIX – one of 8 Academic Network Members.
- The first cohort of students graduated in December 2018.
- By 2025, GIX has the potential to educate 3,000 students.

Washington Education Investment Act

Funded by an increase in business taxes for Microsoft and other employers who are heavy users of the higher education system, the Workforce Education Investment Act marks a major step toward offering free and reduced college tuition for Washington students.

- This represents a $1.5 billion commitment to educating and training Washington workers for Washington jobs over the next six years. It is projected to provide, on average, $190 million in its first two years.
- Historically, higher education has sustained significantly larger cuts than K-12 schools, criminal justice, and other general fund spending categories during economic downturns. By establishing a dedicated fund, the bill reduces the potential impact of general fund budget cuts.

University of Washington Computer Science and Engineering School

- In 2017, Microsoft donated $10 million to the Paul G. Allen Center for Computer Science and Engineering.
- In 2015, Microsoft donated $10M to what is now the Bill & Melinda Gates Center for Computer Science & Engineering (CSE). The new CSE building opened in 2019, expanding the space of the University of Washington’s CSE program, allowing increased enrollment to educate more students for Washington’s high-impact jobs.

Seattle University Center for Science and Innovation

In January 2019, Microsoft made a $3 million gift to Seattle University’s Center for Science and Innovation and related academic programming dedicated to examining the ethical implications of artificial intelligence.

Technology Education and Literacy in Schools (TEALS)

Microsoft TEALS puts technology professionals from across the technology industry into classrooms to team-teach computer science with classroom teachers. Through TEALS, technology professionals share their knowledge with teachers while students benefit from learning how computer science and its applications in the workplace. Students need to develop leading-edge STEM skills.

- TEALS is now in 99 schools (153 classrooms) in Washington state.
- The program started here in Washington and continues to rapidly expand across the U.S., impacting thousands of schoolteachers and students.
- Now in its tenth year, TEALS operates in 31 states, Washington, D.C., and British Columbia. It is comprised of over 1,800 volunteers from over 750 companies, serving 21,000 students. Since its founding in 2009, TEALS has served over 75,000 students.
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Microsoft Affordable Housing Initiative (http://news.microsoft.com/affordable-housing)

In January 2019, Microsoft committed $500 million to advance affordable housing solutions in the Puget Sound region, divided between philanthropic grants, loans for middle-income housing, and loans for low-income housing. These funds are being distributed to key housing organizations that maximize community involvement and accelerate impact.

In January 2020, Microsoft invested an additional $250 million into affordable housing as a line of credit to the Washington State Housing Finance Commission (WSHFC). With this additional investment, Microsoft has successfully committed $380 million of its total $750 million commitment, which will support the preservation or creation of over 6,500 affordable housing units.

- Projects and grants announced include:
  - **Evergreen Housing Impact Fund**: $50 million investment for low-income housing on the Eastside (will create approximately 1,250 units).
  - **HomeSight**: $2.5 million philanthropic grant to support a new community-based, affordable housing project at Othello Square (will create approximately 192 units).
  - **Rise Together**: $2.5 million philanthropic grant to support low-income units in Central District, Capitol Hill, and White Center (will create approximately 400 units).
  - **King County Housing Authority**: $60 million loan at below-market rates to finance acquisition of five middle-income residential apartment complexes in Kirkland, Bellevue, and Federal Way (approximately 1,029 units).
  - **Plymouth Housing**: $5 million philanthropic grant to build permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless (approximately 800 units).
  - **United Way of King County’s HomeBase Program**: $5 million philanthropic grant focused on eviction prevention.
  - **King County regional homelessness authority**: $5 million in philanthropic support for programmatic focus areas.

Microsoft TechSpark

Microsoft TechSpark is a national civic program aimed at fostering greater economic opportunity and job creation through partnership with rural and smaller metropolitan communities.

- We work with local partners on programs that will accelerate economic growth through digital transformation for businesses, computer science education for youth, career pathways for adults of all ages, rural broadband access, and support for nonprofits. We are working with non-profit partners like the Apple STEM Network to create better computer science pathways to higher education for local students. That includes ensuring pathways for students from high school through community college and higher. We have brought DigiGirlz programming to the region and we are leveraging our partnerships with nonprofits like Code.org, Girls Who Code, 4-H and FFA to empower students in the North Central Basin to learn computer science and digital skills so they can pursue good paying jobs, grow our economy and strengthen our communities.
- As our TechSpark work progresses, we look forward to announcing more partnerships and investments that will help advance competitiveness and economic opportunity for the North Central Basin.

Microsoft Airband Initiative

Microsoft is committed to closing the broadband gap through its Airband Initiative, which will bring broadband connectivity to 3 million people in America by July 2022.

- In November 2018, Microsoft partnered with Native Network to bring broadband internet to
73,500 unserved people in rural communities in Washington and Montana.

- In October 2019, Microsoft announced an international Airband sister program to deliver internet access to 40 million people globally by 2022.

**CASCADIA**

Launched in September 2016, the Cascadia Innovation Corridor is built upon a shared spirit of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

- Governments, universities, research institutions and companies, including Microsoft, have joined together to tap the potential of the Cascadia region to create new and exciting economic opportunities while celebrating cultural diversity and inclusion.
- By focusing on research, economic development and transportation, the Cascadia Innovation Corridor is enhancing greater connectivity, productivity and innovation for people living in British Columbia, Washington state and Oregon.

**High Speed Rail**

High-speed rail linking Portland, Seattle and Vancouver is a critical piece of infrastructure for the Cascadia Innovation Corridor that will open the door for stronger working relationships and collaboration throughout the region.

- In February 2019, the Province of British Columbia and the State of Oregon committed funds to advance the next phase of study needed to bring high-speed rail to the region.
- In April 2019, the Washington State Legislature approved an equal amount.
- In October 2019 at the 2019 Cascadia Innovation Corridor Conference, Microsoft announced an equivalent contribution of $223,000, providing the last portion of funding to get the study underway.
- The study will examine governance structures and financing options the project and will be completed by the end of 2020.

**Commitment to Vancouver BC and Canada**

In June of 2016, we announced together with all levels of government the opening of Microsoft Vancouver, which will generate more than 750 well-paying jobs.

- In February 2017, Microsoft donated $1 million toward a Cascadia Urban Analytics Cooperative between University of British Columbia and University of Washington.
- Microsoft supported the launch of a Seaplane Service in April 2018, reducing travel time between Seattle and Vancouver to one hour.
- Microsoft is a founding member of the BC-led Canadian Digital Supercluster consortium with a focus on AR/VR. In February of 2018, the consortium was named a funding recipient in the Canadian federal government’s Supercluster Initiative.
- In November 2017, Microsoft announced it will add 50 new jobs that specialize in AR/MR/VR. According to a recent Deloitte study, the global AR/VR market is expected to be $150B by 2025.

**AT HOME**

**Employee Giving**

In 2018, U.S. employees donated $163 million, inclusive of company match, to a diverse group of 21,785 nonprofits and schools including several in Washington state like United Way of King County, University of
Commute Reduction

- As one of the largest employers in Washington State, we recognize the importance of addressing transportation challenges and identifying smart solutions in partnership with labor, environmental and transit organizations.
- 42 percent of Microsoft employees use a form of transportation other than driving alone for their daily commute. Microsoft offers a variety of alternative commute options and support programs such as the Connector bus service, on-campus shuttles, free ORCA bus passes, vanpools and carpools.
- To assist in reducing Single Occupancy Vehicle use, Microsoft offers the Connector bus service to its employees. The service serves 4,300 riders per day on 23 routes throughout the region and has eliminated 7 million vehicle trips and 104 million pounds of carbon emissions, serving 41,000 unique riders. Nearly half of all Connector riders said they previously drove alone to work.

Redmond Campus

- As part of our ongoing commitment to our employees and the community, we recently announced a significant initiative to modernize our Redmond campus that will include 18 new buildings, 6.7 million square feet of renovated workspace, and $150 million in transportation infrastructure improvements.
- Microsoft provides more than 50,000 jobs in Washington state. Microsoft is one of the largest employers in Washington state and our Washington-based employees account for more than one-third of Microsoft’s workforce.
- Microsoft’s corporate headquarters are located in Redmond, Washington, where we have 500 acres of land for our campus and 125 buildings in the Puget Sound region.
- The Redmond campus has approximately 15 million square feet of office space and labs located in King County, Washington that is used for engineering, sales, marketing, and operations, among other general and administrative purposes.