



Board of Clallam County Commissioners

223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015
360.417.2233 Fax: 360.417.2493

E-mail: commissioners@clallamcountywa.gov

Todd Mielke, County Administrator

MARK OZIAS, District 1
RANDY JOHNSON, District 2
MIKE FRENCH, District 3, Chair

August 5, 2024

PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**



EDA Announces \$35 Million Investment to North Olympic Peninsula Recompete Coalition

*New Funding Aims to Create Jobs and Reinvigorate
North Olympic Peninsula Economy*

*US Representative Derek Kilmer Authored Legislation to Create Recompete
Program, Which Has Become the Most Popular Program in the History of the
Economic Development Administration*

**Contact: Una Wirkebau
Recompete Plan Coordinator
Una.Wirkebau@ClallamCountyWa.gov**

August 5, 2024 Port Angeles, Washington – Today, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced that the North Olympic Peninsula Recompete Coalition (NOPRC) was awarded approximately \$35 million by the U.S. Department of Commerce to reinvigorate the economy on the North Olympic Peninsula. The historic federal funding is being administered by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) through the [Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program \(Recompete Pilot Program\)](#), which was created based on legislation authored by Rep. Kilmer (WA -06).

The North Olympic Peninsula [Recompete Plan](#), led by Clallam County, aims to revitalize the marine and natural resources industries in the North Olympic Peninsula. The new funding will help NOPRC drive renewed economic competitiveness and good job opportunities in the region. Specifically, the funding will support critical marine and natural resource industries, a workforce strategy aligned with educational components, as well as social support services. Through the coalition's Recompete Task Force, tribal and county governments, local colleges, and economic development partners are poised to create and connect residents to good jobs.

The Recompete Pilot Program targets areas where prime-age (25-54 years) employment is significantly lower than the national average, with the goal of closing this gap through flexible, locally driven investments. Recompete aims to support local economic development, create quality jobs, invest in workers and businesses, and ensure sustainable success and economic growth by providing targeted assistance and resources to address the unique challenges of persistently distressed communities.

The Recompete Pilot Program was established by Rep. Kilmer's [Rebuilding Economies and Creating Opportunities for More People Everywhere to Excel Act \(RECOMPETE Act\)](#), which was signed into law, in pilot form, by President Biden in July 2022 as part of the [CHIPS and Science Act](#), a sweeping investment in American innovation and manufacturing led by Sen. Cantwell. NOPRC is led by Clallam County and supported by Jefferson County. It has grown to include all local municipalities and unincorporated communities across the Peninsula, Tribes (Hoh, Makah, Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, and Quileute), ports, economic development agencies, community-based organizations, educational institutions, and non-profits.

Out of 565 applications across 49 states, the North Olympic Peninsula Recompete Coalition was named one of twenty-two national finalists for phase one of the award, earlier this year, in January 2024 and is now one of 6 final awardees, a total of \$184 million in implementation grants. NOPRC is the only awardee on the West Coast. Collectively, the Finalists secured more than 1,000 commitments from community-based organizations, labor, higher education, Tribal governments, the private sector, and industry groups. Since its creation, the Recompete Pilot Program has become the most popular program in the history of the EDA.

