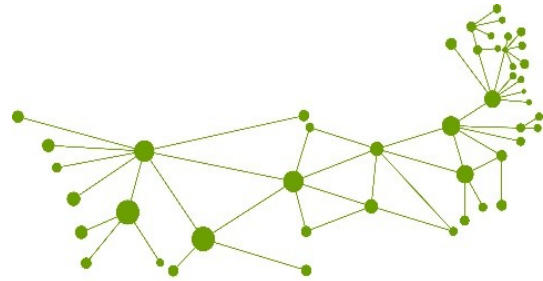


JEFFERSON
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Trends in Jefferson County
2024



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MISSION

Jefferson Community Foundation connects diverse people, ideas and resources to build a future of opportunity for all in Jefferson County.

We serve as hub for our community to:

- GIVE donations informed with local knowledge & strategy,
- BUILD strong and collaborative nonprofits,
- SOLVE regional issues by working together on solutions.



Housing

- **Middle Income Workforce Housing** is a larger challenge here than low-income housing. There is a gap for middle income workers who do not qualify for government assisted housing and can't afford market rate houses.
- **Port Townsend code changes** amount to an all-market-rate upzone in our only "urban growth area"
- **Workforce Housing Projects Underway:** Mason Street, Evans Vista (TBD)
- **Low-income and Houseless people** served by Seventh Haven, Caswell Brown, Bayside, Woodley Place, Community Build
- **Local Housing Organizations** are excellent and operating at capacity.
- **Permanent Affordability** is a growing focus in all housing



Housing Organizations

- Habitat for Humanity
- Bayside Housing and Services
- Olympic Housing Trust
- OlyCAP
- Community Build
- Community Boat Project
- Olympic Neighbors
- Dove House Advocacy and Services
- Winter Welcoming Center
- Housing Solutions Network
 - *HSN is the only organization working on middle income workforce housing*

Human Services



- **Food Security and Financial Assistance** organizations are being convened at JCF and are thorough and effective. Some of the most robust assistance has a high bar – documentation and follow through – which disinclines non-citizens and those in crisis.
- **Transportation** is a defining issue across all systems. Human services are largely in central locations, while many of those needing services are located in remote parts of the county and lack adequate transportation.

Human Services Organizations



- YMCA
- St. Vincent de Paul
- OlyCAP
- Jefferson County Food Bank Network (Food Bank Growers)
- Jefferson Healthcare Population Health Department
- Jefferson Farmers Markets
- Jefferson County Public Health
- Jefferson Transit Public Transportation
- First Step Family Support Center
- JCIRA
- Community Wellness Project
- Weekend Backpack Programs (Kiwanis, Elks, Rotary, etc.)



Families & Youth

- **Family Resources Navigators** at the YMCA help families navigate services in Jefferson County.
- **Childcare** - Jefferson County is a childcare desert. There is a need for 645 childcare slots and only currently 130 available. JCF is convening a cross-sector group to work together on solutions. The YMCA, Port Townsend School District, Jefferson Healthcare and OlyCAP are working together to open a new facility in 2025. This will have 44 slots. There will still be 471 new slots needed.
- **Youth Opportunity** – JUMP Playground has opened in Chimacum. In general, significantly more opportunities are needed for youth outside of school
- **OWL360 and The Nest** – OWL360 runs programs and housing for at-risk youth. They opened a youth-run coffee house called The Nest in uptown PT.



Families & Youth

- YMCA
- OWL360
- Foster Supports
- Olympic Angels
- Camp Beausite
- Jefferson Teen Center
- Community Wellness Project
- First Step Family Support
- Jefferson County and PT Libraries
- Out of School Programs like Cedar Root School, PT Ballet, Little League, Maritime Center, Marine Science Center, Aero Museum, Northwind Art, Centrum



Economy

- **Skilled Labor Missing** - Businesses and nonprofits continue to struggle with hiring. 2700 jobs open in Clallam and Jefferson. Housing is the biggest reason. Unemployment is at an all-time low of 3.5% in April 2023
- **Low Wages** - Based on housing prices, minimum wage should be \$30/hour or \$62,400/year.
- **Hospitality and Maritime Jobs** are going unfilled causing some to shorten hours or close aspects of their business
- **Growing Business** - More support for scaling is needed
- **Workforce Development** - Several entities are interested in providing workforce development opportunities for students here. A new position is needed to augment the capacity of school counselors.
- **Creative Entrepreneurship Network** has moved to EDC Team Jefferson and is dedicated to the growth of local makers
- **The Chamber of Commerce** closed last month.



Economic Development Orgs

- EDC Team Jefferson
- Hood Canal Chamber
- Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship
- North Olympic Development Council
- Port Townsend Mainstreet



Education

- **School Districts** – there are 2538 students in the County and 5 public school districts. The leadership and collaboration is growing stronger. Quilcene seeking a new Superintendent.
- **More Funding Needed** - Advocacy needed to secure full funding needed for public education.
- **School counselor capacity** is beyond stretched. Critical need for more capacity.
- **Drug Use** among students appears to be increasing
- **Scholarship Summit** - JCF is hosting a summit in 2024 to coordinate a more efficient landscape of paid internships and apprenticeships for young people seeking to work at local businesses.

Education Organizations



- Public School Districts in Port Townsend (1209), Chimacum (717), Quilcene (494), Brinnon (78), and Queets/Stillwater (40)
- Private Schools: Swan School, Sunfield Farm and Waldorf School, Cedarbrook Adventist, (a total of 189 private school students)
- Homeschooling is very prevalent especially in South County
- Skillmation
- Community Boat Project
- Clemente Course



Social Justice

- **A New Multi-Cultural Center** has been opened in Port Townsend by JCIRA
- **Black Lives Matter Jefferson County** hired their first staff this year. “Well Organized” is a new program of BLMJC that will offer fiscal sponsorship services to BIPOC community groups that are not formal nonprofits.
- **BIPOC Student Groups** have been organized in Port Townsend Schools
- **Trans Rights** put Jefferson County in the center of national debate.



Social Justice Organizations

- Jefferson County Immigrant Rights Advocates (JCIRA)
- Black Lives Matter Jefferson County
- Olympic Pride
- Roots of Resilience
- Jefferson County Anti-Racist Fund (mutual aid network)
- Pro Bono Lawyers of Jefferson and Clallam County



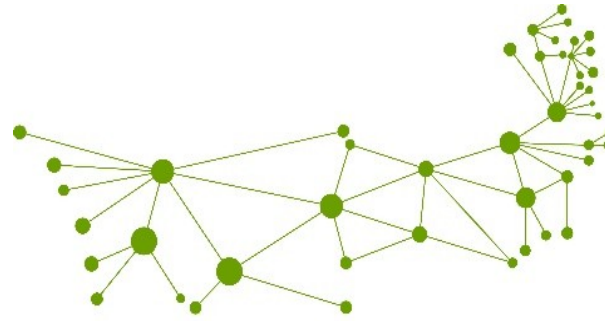
Healthcare

- **Jefferson Healthcare and Jefferson County Public Health** were stellar during the pandemic. Their teams are exhausted.
- **Jefferson Healthcare Facing challenges**
 - They have over 100 job openings. Wait time to see practitioners has increased dramatically. Nurses are overtaxed.
 - A shrinking workforce means fewer privately insured patients and less income overall.
 - They are planning a huge renovation to increase the range of services they can provide with the hope that fewer people will go to Seattle for their needs.
- **Independent Providers** are few and far between and almost all largely nonwestern medicine.
- **JC MASH** (Medical and Advocacy Services) has merged with Bayside Housing and Services
- **Youth Mental Health** – There is insufficient capacity to help young people. Jumping Mouse Children's Center works in most elementary schools providing one-on-one play therapy as well as trauma informed teacher training courses. Hiring is a challenge.



Healthcare Organizations

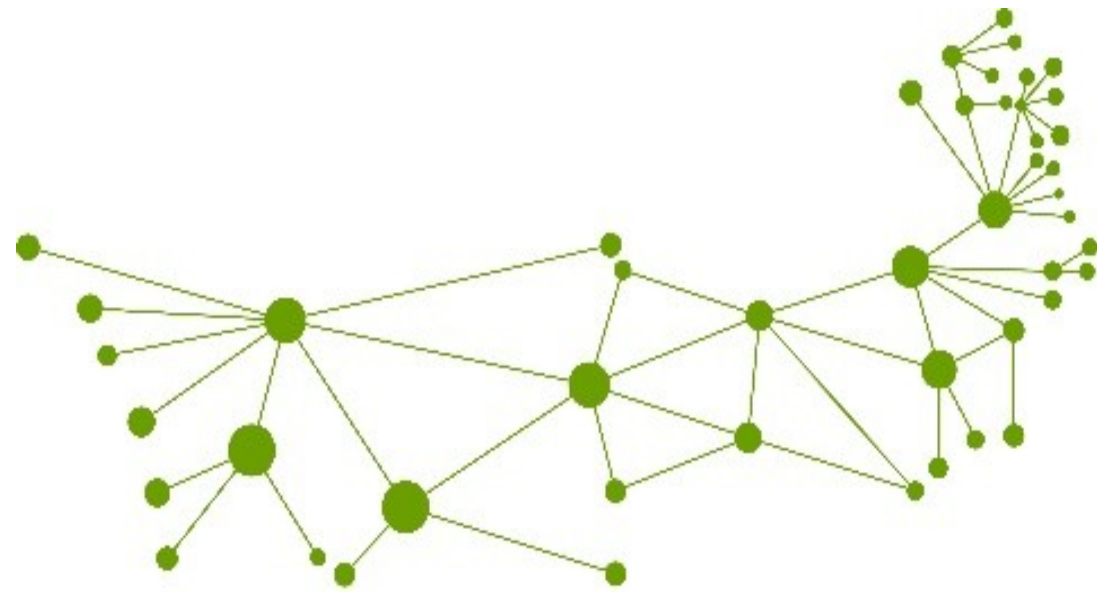
- Jefferson Healthcare
- Jefferson County Public Health
- Fewer than 5 doctors outside of Jefferson Healthcare
- Discovery Behavioral Health
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- The Benji Project
- Jumping Mouse
- ECCHO



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Recent Highlights and Works in Progress

- Funder: \$4.4 million for Mason Street Workforce Housing Project in partnership with Habitat for Humanity
- Founder: Creative Entrepreneurship Network
- Convenor: Networks dedicated to childcare, financial assistance and food security
- 2024: Scholarship Summit



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