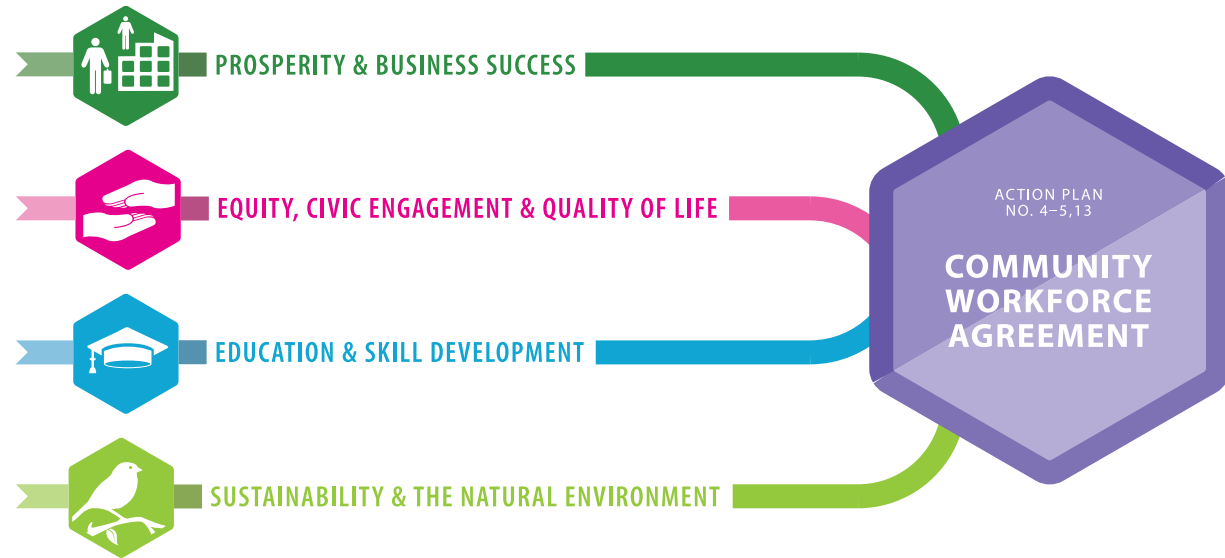


# WORKING SMARTER: COMMUNITY WORKFORCE AGREEMENT



The region is faced with significant workforce challenges with more than 100,000 people working full-time and not earning enough to be self-sufficient, while more than 50 percent of unemployed people lack basic skills in reading and math. To get more from existing budgets, the Portland Plan emphasizes actions that benefit more than one priority. By strengthening our educational systems, and aligning our workforce training programs with the growing sectors of our economy, we can better prepare more people to succeed in family-supporting jobs that also advance our region's economic growth strategies while promoting a healthier natural environment.

Over the past decade, community workforce agreements (CWAs) have emerged as one of the best vehicles for establishing strong job quality standards on publicly-funded or subsidized construction projects, and for outlining a plan to recruit and hire low-income workers onto those projects. A community workforce agreement consists of a project labor agreement that includes a targeted hire provision designed to get low-income workers into construction careers. These collaborations are a great example of an action that has multiple benefits.

One prominent local example is Clean Energy Works Oregon (CEWO), which utilized a community workforce agreement to increase opportunities for minority and women-owned design and engineering professionals to gain access to energy efficiency work in Oregon homes. CEWO is earning national recognition as a pioneering partnership linking workforce training, local jobs with competitive wages, climate protection and community benefits.

