

WHALEWORKS

PUBLICATION SERIES

VOLUME I

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

*Understanding the Challenges, Assets, and Opportunities of Coastal
Washington*

PART 03

Opportunity - Innovation - Community - Belonging

Publication Overview

Change

Why This Matters

Communities thrive when young people have safe places to learn, caring mentors, and access to opportunities that prepare them for the future. Rural communities often face barriers to technology education, career exploration, creative arts programming, and workforce development. WhaleWorks is designed to complement existing community resources by expanding access to these opportunities.

Key Community Priorities

Youth Development: Positive after-school environments reduce isolation and encourage leadership. **Technology Access:** Digital literacy, computer skills, and emerging technologies are increasingly essential for education and employment. **Creative Expression:** Music, media, and the arts provide healthy outlets for communication, confidence, and collaboration. **Workforce Readiness:** Early exposure to careers, internships, and entrepreneurship helps prepare youth for long-term success. The WhaleWorks Response WhaleWorks addresses these priorities through one connected pathway. Participants can move from the Safe Haven Youth Center into technology education, music production, entrepreneurship, workforce development, wellness programming, and future technology initiatives. Rather than operating as isolated programs, each experience reinforces the next and creates a long-term pathway toward education, employment, and community leadership.

Community Partnerships

WhaleWorks believes lasting change is built through collaboration. Partnerships with schools, families, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and Whale of a Cone strengthen programming while maximizing community resources. This collaborative model allows WhaleWorks to enhance-not duplicate-the work already taking place throughout Grays Harbor County. **Vision for Change** Our vision is a Community Innovation Campus where education, technology, creativity, entrepreneurship, wellness, and workforce development come together under one roof. The campus will provide year-round programming, regional partnerships, and measurable outcomes that strengthen individuals, families, and the broader community.

Measuring Success

WhaleWorks will evaluate progress through participant engagement, educational achievement, technology certifications, workforce placements, volunteer participation, community partnerships, and annual impact reporting. Success will be measured not only by the number of youth served but by the opportunities created and lives positively influenced.