



**City of Seattle**  
Office of the Mayor

## News

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### **Life Sciences and Global Health growth and activity in South Lake Union surpasses expectations** *City working to support job creation through Seattle Jobs Plan*

SEATTLE – Today Mayor Mike McGinn met with stakeholders to discuss ongoing city actions to create jobs in the healthcare, global health and life sciences industries, and create opportunities for Seattle residents to earn these high quality jobs. An economic impact study of South Lake Union and an analysis of Seattle's life sciences and global health industries show continued growth in these sectors.

Seattle has become one of the nation's leading healthcare and life science centers with a significant concentration of innovative health care providers, biotechnology firms, global health organizations, and life science research institutions. A remarkable one in five jobs in Seattle is tied to this sector. When healthcare is linked with the biotechnology and global health sectors and related research institutions, Seattle's broader healthcare and life science cluster totals over 90,000 workers with an annual payroll of \$4 billion.

The mayor, working with health care workers and the community college system, is also developing the training pathways for Seattle residents to build credentials to participate in this growing sector. The purpose of this event was to bring back together stakeholders who have been working with the mayor over the past year to determine how the City can best support the continued growth of this important job sector and review the findings of the Strategic Situation Assessment – a report resulting from these year long conversations.

"We're acting to support job creation and widen the circle of prosperity to include more of Seattle residents" said McGinn.

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Commitments from the mayor included:

- **A Skilled Workforce**  
Increasing the supply of qualified workers to meet the demand for skilled workers in acute care by building educational pathways that advance home health care workers into high demand occupations such as Medical Assistants and Certified Nurse Assistants.
- **Power Reliability**  
Accelerating the timeline for the building of an electrical power substation, ensuring that these sectors have the necessary electrical power capacity and reliability to foster continued growth.
- **Code Adjustments**  
Examining the regulatory and permitting environment to better support this sector, including examining hazardous materials costs and zoning in South Lake Union.
- **Environmental Efficiencies**  
Investing resources in our Community Power Works building retrofit initiative to achieve energy efficiency improvements in major hospitals.
- **Urban Vitality**  
Supporting South Lake Union's transportation needs and urban vitality by addressing housing mix, urban design, multi-modal transportation, and neighborhood amenities to create an engaging neighborhood where people want to live, work and play.
- **Building on Success**  
Targeted business retention and expansion efforts on the life sciences and global health industries, with our partner Washington Biotechnical and Biomedical Association.

"Building on our strengths is an important part of the Seattle Jobs Plan," said McGinn. "The success in South Lake Union with the life sciences and global health sector is an example of successful public-private partnership. We are committed to continued engagement with industry and community leaders on issues of job training, power reliability, zoning, transportation infrastructure and urban design to continue this momentum."

The *South Lake Union Development Update (2004-2010)* released today shows that between 2004 and 2010, commercial real estate development activities in Seattle's South Lake Union neighborhood were 50 percent greater than original projections. This has resulted in the attraction of more than 13,000 permanent jobs and an average of \$5 million per year in additional tax revenues to the City of Seattle since 2004. This rate exceeds the most optimistic projections from seven years ago.

The City of Seattle strives to nurture the job growth and expansion of the life sciences, global health and healthcare industry clusters. The city's Office of Economic Development and Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) completed a *Strategic Situation Assessment – Positioning Downtown Seattle as a Growing Center for Life Sciences and Global Health Research* report. The assessment identifies key infrastructure needs, regulatory issues and neighborhood amenities required to continue their growth.

"The Downtown Seattle Association is pleased to have partnered with the city's Office of Economic Development on this important research, which identifies barriers for continued growth within the life sciences, global health and healthcare sectors," said James Hendricks, PhD, chair of the DSA's board of trustees and president of Seattle Children's Research Institute. "By addressing the key infrastructure and policy issues identified in this assessment, the city provides a springboard for the private sector to expand the number of innovative health organizations located here and create jobs while building a vibrant Downtown and strong local economy."

#### **Seattle Jobs Plan**

Mayor Mike McGinn launched the Seattle Jobs Plan in August 2010. It is a vision for next-generation economic development that creates a sustainable economy with shared prosperity in Seattle and the Puget Sound region. It is policies, programs and investments designed to help create quality jobs, protect the environment, and ensure that taxpayers get true value from the city of Seattle's public investments. For more information, visit [www.seattle.gov/jobsplan](http://www.seattle.gov/jobsplan)

#### **City's Office of Economic Development (OED)**

OED supports a healthy business environment and empowers companies to grow and compete. We provide services directly to businesses through advocacy, retention and expansion assistance, and workforce development. OED has several financing options for businesses, including options for small to medium to large businesses. Visit [www.growseattle.com](http://www.growseattle.com) to access city services for businesses, and for more information about our office, visit [www.seattle.gov/economicdevelopment](http://www.seattle.gov/economicdevelopment)

#### **Downtown Seattle Association (DSA)**

Established in 1958, the Downtown Seattle Association ([www.DowntownSeattle.com](http://www.DowntownSeattle.com)) is a member-based non-profit organization that champions a healthy, vibrant urban core. By advocating on behalf of business, non-profit, arts and residential interests throughout Downtown Seattle, DSA ensures that Downtown is a world-class place to live, work, shop and play.

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