



Innovation Partnership Zones



Key Fact

CTED's director must designate IPZs by October 1 and annually thereafter.

Key Fact

Designated IPZs must re-apply for designation every four years.

Key Fact

CTED consults with the Economic Development Commission to devise performance criteria for evaluating IPZs.

Statutory Authority

RCW 43.330.270
Innovation Partnership Zones

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Pullman IPZ
Green IT Alliance Clean
Technology Center



Grays Harbor Sustainable Industries IPZ
Zone Boundaries

The Innovation Partnership Zones (IPZ) program was created in 2007 by Gov. Gregoire and the Washington State Legislature, through SHB 1091. IPZs are part of the state's efforts to stimulate growth of industry clusters within specific geographic areas, much like a research park environment. The IPZ legislation requires CTED's director to make annual designations by Oct. 1 and annually thereafter.

To qualify for designation, applicants must partner research, workforce training and a globally competitive company in close geographic proximity for a cooperative, research-based effort that will lead to new commercially viable products and jobs. Applicants (aka The Zone Administrator) must be an economic development council, port, workforce development council, city or county. Designations carry for four years and then a designee must reapply.



Additional Features

CTED convenes annual meetings of IPZ Zone Administrators.

11 Designated Zones

- Bellingham Innovation Zone
- Bothell Bio Medical Manufacturing Corridor
- Grays Harbor Sustainable Industries
- Pullman IPZ
- Sequim North Olympia Peninsula Innovation Partnership Zone
- Snohomish Aerospace Convergence Zone
- South Lake Union Life Sciences Innovation Partnership Zone
- Spokane University District IPZ
- Tri-Cities Research District
- Vancouver Steinmuller Innovation Zone
- Walla Walla IPZ

Funding

The authorizing legislation did not provide for any operating or administrative funds for the designated Innovation Partnership Zones.

However, the 2007 Capital Budget provided \$5 million for CTED to award to a handful of designated zones. This was one-time, competitive funding for 2007 applicants only. The proviso stated that the funds could be used by the IPZ for such expenses as shared infrastructure, telecommunications, equipment or construction, and up to 10 percent for IPZ administration.

Next Steps

"The state should continue capital investment competitions for designated Innovation Partnership Zones (IPZs). Additional operational funding should be provided for IPZs to broker stronger networks and relationships within and across IPZs. In order to fully test the effectiveness of this locally driven process for innovation the current designation criteria should be maintained. The Innovation Partnership Advisory committee should develop and publish a set of IPZ performance criteria and, where possible, link the STARS program and the IPZs more explicitly. IPZs should help identify ways to integrate workforce and infrastructure resources from federal, state and local economic development agencies to reinforce IPZ projects and outcomes."

2007 Grant Awards

- Bellingham Innovation Zone
- Grays Harbor Sustainable Industries
- Pullman IPZ
- Spokane University District IPZ
- Tri-Cities Research District
- Walla Walla IPZ



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