



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 27, 2018

Kennewick, Wash.

**GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF THE COLUMBIA RECEIVES GRANT FROM BENTON-FRANKLIN
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR \$477,894**

With the holiday season in full swing, our local Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council is pleased to announce it has awarded a two-year \$477,894 grant from the national Families Forward Demonstration project to Goodwill Industries of the Columbia (Goodwill).

Through Goodwill, this project will serve up to 100 non-custodial parents (NCPs) in Southeastern WA under the locally named project, Families Forward Washington, with the objective of improving their earnings and family stability. From helping parents with career counseling and training, to job placement and support services, advocates at Goodwill will be there for these participants through every barrier, every step of the way. Goodwill recently opened enrollment for FFW's free occupational training for "in-demand" jobs.

"This grant allows non-custodial parents a chance to rebuild their future and deepen their relationship with their children. Through the short-term training tracks at Columbia Basin College, braiding services through the Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Child Support (DCS), and the amount of support that Goodwill brings to the table, I could see a lot of lives changing," said Tiffany Scott, CEO of the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council.

Families Forward Washington is supported through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), and DCS. Families Forward Washington will be evaluated by MDRC, a nonprofit, nonpartisan social policy research organization with over 40 years of experience launching and evaluating programs for low-income people.

The Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council awards annual grants through a competitive application and review process.

For more information on Families Forward Washington visit <http://ffwashington.mdrc.org/>. Know someone who would benefit from this program? Call (509) 460-4704, ext. 323 and ask for Rosa or email ffw@goodwillotc.org.

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The Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council oversees employment-related programs for employers and job seekers in Benton and Franklin counties via an American Job Center, locally known as WorkSource Columbia Basin. The Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council

provides resources and tools for the public workforce system to help individuals find self-sufficient jobs, stay employed and improve employer prospects for success in the global market place. The Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council guides the Workforce System so that it is integrated and streamlined to provide pathways to prosperity. To see more information on how the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council impacts our local community check out www.bentonfranklinwdc.com.

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The Benton – Franklin Workforce Development Council is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Relay Service: 711