Office of Economic Development

2027-28 Proposed Budget Overview



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Seattle City Council Select Budget Committee

City of Seattle

OED's Core Purpose

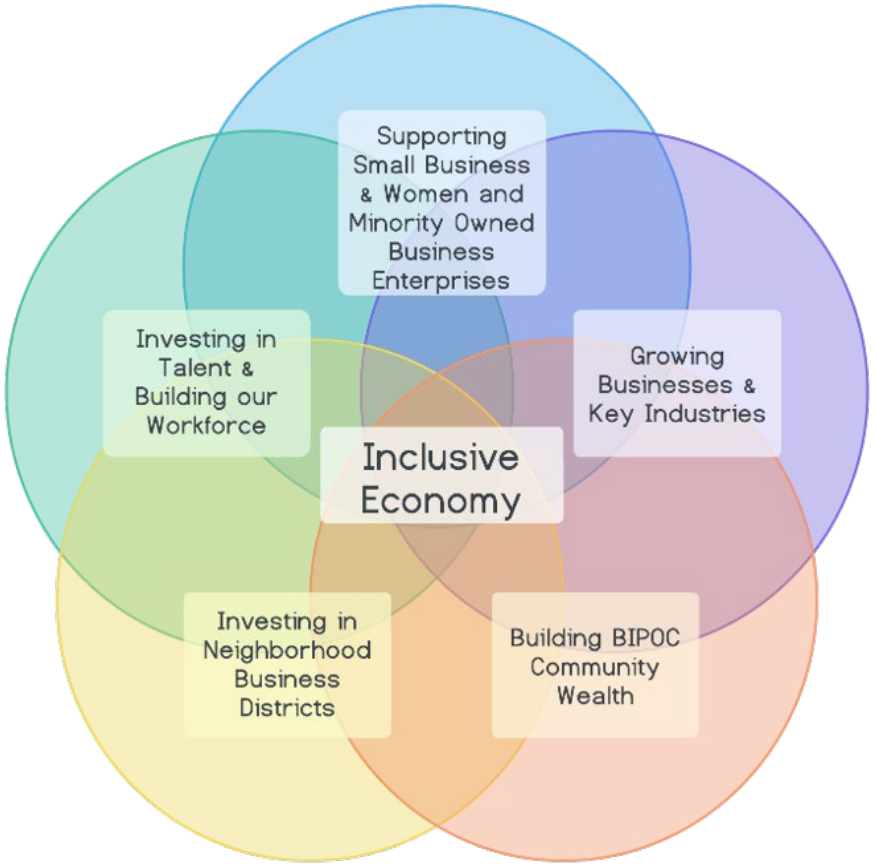
Our focus: Leading projects and making investments that open up access to economic opportunities, reduce the racial wealth gap, and encourage innovation and growth, consistent with the Future of Seattle Economy framework adopted as City Policy in Resolution 32099.

Striking a balance:

- Supporting our local economy
- Competing in the global economy

Advancing Citywide priorities:

- Affordability
- Economic recovery and resilience across the city



OED in Action









Seawall: A Business Climate Assessment

- **Seattle's growth model delivered**, however, the current model won't last much longer.
- The path forward is to **retain and reconfigure**. We need to keep the companies and industries we have, and reconfigure them cross-sector to encourage collaboration and growth of mid-sized businesses.
- **Competitiveness and affordability are linked**. The costs that squeeze firms are the same costs that squeeze families.
- **Active strategy is required**.

What Does This Moment Call For?

- **Make intentional choices**
  - Diversify our economy, across industries and business sizes, evolving our work in the Key Industries pillar of the Future of the Seattle Economy framework
  - Actively partner and think creatively about City assets
- **Examine what drives economic problems**
  - Look and listen for an accurate sense of the problem
  - Take precise actions that unlock solutions
- **Deploy tools with a focus on outcomes**
  - Policy, such as streamlining permitting
  - Programs like technical assistance, the Tenant Improvement program, and Seattle Restored
  - Partnerships such as the Seattle Climate Innovation Hub and the AI House

Priorities for OED's 2027-28 Budget

- Maintain flexibility to execute the Building a Resilient Seattle Economy Executive Order:
  - Partner with the Resilient Seattle Economy Task Force to review recent business climate findings and identify coordinated opportunities for action across business, labor, community, and civic stakeholders.
  - Grow and retain industrial, innovative, and creative industries with strong wages and economic impact
  - Explore additional ways to deploy flexible capital funding
  - Make it easier to open, operate and grow a business in Seattle
- Deliver high-impact programs supporting small businesses, while maintaining operational capacity and staffing for these programs.
- Strengthen neighborhood business districts to reduce vacancies and support a diverse, active business mix.
- Maintain OED's proactive approach for Special Events Office aligned with the Special Events Vision.

Summary

The Office of Economic Development is maintaining investments in well-established and high-impact programs and planning new work that is critical to the vibrancy of Seattle neighborhoods, the strength of Seattle's business ecosystem, and makes it easier to start, retain, and grow a business here.

TOTAL BUDGET ($000s)	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	2028 Proposed
General Fund	$16,433	$10,427	$10,516
Other Funds	$23,935	$18,252	$18,281
FTE	63.0	61.0	61.0

Technical Adjustment

Remove One-Time Funding Added in the 2026 Adopted Budget

- Generally, 2026 investments were intended to address specific one-time needs (e.g. development of a Maritime Innovation Center) or to support place-based stabilization and revitalization actions.

($000s)	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	% Change (Adopted to 2027 Proposed	2028 Proposed	% Change (2027 Proposed to 2028 Proposed)
General Fund	$6,000	$0	(100%)	$0	(0%)
Other Funds	$5,925	$0	(100%)	$0	(0%)
FTE	--	--		--	--

Significant Additions

1. Transfer Funding for Duwamish Valley Small Business Support

- Transfers funding for small business supports in the Duwamish Valley from the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) to the Office of Economic Development (OED).
- Aligns and consolidates small business supports in OED.

($000s)	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	% Change (Adopted to 2027 Proposed	2028 Proposed	% Change (2027 Proposed to 2028 Proposed)
General Fund					
Other Funds	$0	$200	100%	$200	0%
FTE	--	--		--	--

Significant Reductions

2. Eliminate Two Positions

- Eliminate 1.0 FTE vacant Community Development Specialist position
- Eliminate 1.0 FTE Strategic Advisor 2 position

($000s)	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	% Change (Adopted to 2027 Proposed	2028 Proposed	% Change (2027 Proposed to 2028 Proposed)
General Fund	$364	$0	(100%)	$0	(0%)
Other Funds	--	--		--	--
FTE	--	-2		--	--