

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, February 5, 2010

www.snoco.org

 **Reardon to Hold Community Conversations**

Dear Snohomish County residents,

Next week I will announce the dates, times and locations for a series of community conversations I am hosting to discuss the impacts of the "Great Recession" and its financial impacts on Snohomish County government services.

During the next couple of months, the County Council will need to re-work their 2010 budget. My staff and I have pledged our assistance to help them address all outstanding issues and put Snohomish County back on solid financial ground. However, any changes made must reflect the needs of our taxpayers.

Your input is invaluable as it helps me communicate to the County Council how their decisions affect real people. I hope you will take the time to join me and give your feedback as we work through the most challenging financial times since World War II.

Sincerely,

Aaron G. Reardon
County Executive.

 **Multi-day resource fair helps more than 500 people**

More than 500 residents received services during a multi-day resource fair hosted by the Snohomish County Executive Office, United Way of Snohomish County and the Workforce

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How are we doing?

Did you know that you

Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC).

Called "Helping Hands for Hard Times," the three-day resource fair in Everett, Lynnwood and Tulalip/Marysville provided employment, housing, financial and healthcare assistance to residents currently in need. Services were offered to participants free of charge.

"The success of these resource fairs signals that our families continue to need help during these difficult times," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "It is incumbent upon us to continue to have these resource fairs while there is a direct need."

More than 25 nonprofit and public agencies offered a variety of services at each fair. Participants also were able to attend classes that focused on asset building, avoiding foreclosure, résumé building and interviewing techniques.

"This expo was ideal for bringing people in need together with the agencies that can help them," said Carl Zapora, CEO and president of United Way of Snohomish County. "It made for easy referral from one agency to another."

Topics covered and services offered included employment counseling, job search assistance, skills training, financial aid information for training, home and personal finance consultation, weatherization and home energy assistance, housing resources, healthcare assistance, H1N1 flu vaccinations, childcare resources and a variety of other support services.

"Getting people back to work is important, but we also need to help people keep their homes, re-educate and more," said Sue Ambler, CEO and president of WDCSC. "It makes a lot of sense to pull together all these resources for easy access."

For more information on agencies and resources, go to www.snoco.org and search "resource fair."

Highlighting that career and technical training leads to lifelong opportunities and good jobs, Executive Aaron Reardon proclaimed February Career and Technical Education Month in Snohomish County. During the signing earlier this week, Reardon was surrounded by students from high schools throughout Snohomish County. Many of the students participate in training programs such as DECA, Future Farmers of America and Computer Assisted Design and Drafting.

can track how well the County is meeting its performance goals?

The SnoStat system tracks how well the County is delivering services, the costs of those services, and the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat website](#).

Contact me:

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Or, [send me an email](#).

And please be sure to [visit me on the web!](#)

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon



County receives nearly \$2.5 million for early education

Snohomish County will receive \$2.45 million in federal stimulus funds to provide comprehensive, high-quality Early Head Start services during the next two years.

The funding will allow the county to provide services to additional infants, toddlers, and pregnant women in Marysville, Arlington, Granite Falls and Sultan prior to their likely enrollment in the county run Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), which serves nearly 1,000 preschool students.

Much like ECEAP, the Early Head Start program provides family-centered services for low-income families and is designed to promote the development of the children while helping parents fulfill their roles and move toward self-sufficiency. The program provides families with parent education, health and dental screenings, social services, nutrition, and developmental assessments.

“Early Head Start will help us reach vulnerable children and families at an even younger age, providing comprehensive child development and family support services that enhance the physical, social and intellectual development of participating children,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “Ensuring that infants and toddlers have good health, strong families and positive early learning experiences will lay the foundation for success throughout their lives.”

The inclusion of Early Head Start programs in Snohomish County provides an opportunity to bring public health, early intervention, housing assistance and a strong comprehensive early childhood program to wrap around Early Head Start families who later continue developing those skills through ECEAP.

Strong community partnerships – including school districts, nonprofit agencies, and community colleges – will provide intensive services that nurture children and promote self-sufficiency in parents.

For more information on the county’s early learning programs, call Snohomish County ECEAP Manager Joe Varano at 425-388-7251.

 **DEM, Paine Field ready to assist in national disasters**

Snohomish County's Paine Field and Department of Emergency Management have been federally certified to assist with response and recovery during national and international disasters.

The county airport and emergency management staff are one of only a handful of local government agencies with the designation. The two have demonstrated their ability to help medical evacuees and would work in conjunction with other airports and military bases during an event.

The additional training will serve Snohomish County residents, also, should a disaster occur here.

"Snohomish County stands ready to assist our national and international neighbors in the event of a disaster," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "This also means we're better prepared to help our own residents should some calamity occur."

Certification began about eight months ago. Both airport and DEM staff had to demonstrate their ability to respond to a national disaster in other locations during three different mock drills.

Drills revolved around helping evacuate victims during a national or international disaster to a safer location for medical triage and treatment.

"With the Olympics starting today in neighboring Vancouver, it does not hurt to be better prepared," said John Pennington, DEM director.

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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.