



Putting welfare recipients to work

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Employment Security is a partner in the WorkFirst welfare-reform program

Evaluating skills and job-readiness is crucial first step

Staying connected to Employment Security improves clients' success

Employment Security puts more than 200 WorkFirst participants into jobs each week

The Employment Security Department is a partner with other state agencies and communities working together to provide the necessary services and resources to help parents who receive cash assistance (known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF) to prepare for and go to work. These services are provided at local WorkSource career-development centers and some Community Services Offices under the umbrella of the WorkFirst welfare-reform program.

Work skills

As part of the WorkFirst program, participants receive comprehensive evaluations to identify the services they need to quickly find a job and move toward self-sufficiency. The comprehensive evaluations assess a parent's skills, interests, education and work values. Parents and staff compare evaluation results with local labor-market information to determine the best course of action to find the highest-paying entry-level jobs.

Employment-related services

Employment Security's WorkSource staff provides intensive, structured services to teach WorkFirst clients how to look for work, interview for a job, etc. Clients also may be placed in work-experience or on-the-job-training programs to help them improve their skills while gaining real work experience.

Employment services include:

- In-depth skill and education assessments.
- One-on-one case management, employment counseling and job coaching.
- Daily employment competency workshops, including résumé development, interviewing techniques, etc.
- Job referrals with potential advancement opportunities.
- On-the-job training and other job-development opportunities.

Results

Employment outcomes for participants are determined by cross-referencing employer tax-and-wage records. Due to lag times in reporting, it can take up to a year to calculate the employment results for participants. From July 2011 through June 2012, Employment Security helped more than 10,600 WorkFirst clients find jobs.

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