



Workforce Investment Act Dislocated-Worker Program

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Workforce Investment Act programs are provided through Washington's WorkSource system

Dislocated workers can get job-placement and retraining assistance

Rapid response aims to avoid layoffs – then coordinates services in the wake of layoffs

Congress adopted the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in 1998 to provide workforce preparation and employment services for dislocated workers and low-income youths and adults. It created an integrated service-delivery system that offers a comprehensive array of career-development services through one-stop centers, affiliate sites and the Internet.

Here in Washington, WIA services are provided through WorkSource, a statewide partnership of state agencies, community and technical colleges, school districts, business, labor and non-profit service providers convened through local workforce development councils in 12 regions of the state.

Dislocated workers are individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own (or who have received a layoff notice) and are unlikely to return to their previous occupation or industry.

The WIA Dislocated-Worker Program tailors employment and training services to meet dislocated-workers' needs; provides early intervention services for workers and firms facing substantial layoffs; and fosters labor, management and community partnerships to address worker layoffs.

Services for dislocated workers

Dislocated workers are eligible for "core services" that are provided through WorkSource. Core services include skill assessments, labor-market information, information about training programs and assistance with finding a job. Additional services are available for eligible dislocated workers who are unable to get jobs through core services. This sequence of services is individualized and may include more-intensive assessments, counseling, and skill-development and vocational-technical training.

In addition to core services, participants may receive individual training assistance to pay for training. Each of the state's 12 workforce development councils determines the maximum size and duration of individual assistance in its area. Training must be for occupations that are in demand in the local economy.

Rapid response to major layoffs

When a major layoff is announced, the state's rapid-response team swings into gear. Efforts are made to avoid the layoff, if possible. If a layoff is inevitable, workers may receive reemployment and retraining assistance. The rapid-response team also coordinates state and local agencies to get help quickly to workers and communities.

Funding and participation

The U.S. Department of Labor allocated \$22.7 million to Washington for WIA dislocated-worker programs for the July 2012-June 2013 fiscal year (about the same as the year before). During that time, dislocated-worker services were provided to 6,140 participants in Washington; 4,240 of them received training funds.

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. Of those exiting the program from October 2011 to September 2012, 84.5 percent found a job and were employed for at least three consecutive quarters.

Contacts

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