



# Workforce Investment Act Adult Program

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

**WIA Adult programs serve adults who lack skills to find and keep a job**

**Services are tiered based on level of need**

Congress adopted the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in 1998 to provide workforce preparation and employment services to 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 business, labor, state agencies, community and technical colleges, school districts and non-profit providers convened through local workforce development councils in 12 regions of the state.

The Workforce Investment Act's Adult Title 1-B Program provides an array of workforce preparation and employment services that transform low-income adults age 18 or older into skilled workers.

## Funding and participation

The U.S. Department of Labor allocated \$15.7 million to Washington for WIA Adult programs for July 2012 through June 2013 (about the same amount as the year before). During that time, 5,116 Washington adults participated in WIA Adult programs, and 2,649 exited the programs.

Employment outcomes are determined by cross-referencing employer tax-and-wage records. Due to lag times in reporting, it can take up to a year to verify employment results for participants. Of those exiting the program from October 2011 to October 2012, 80 percent found a job at an average wage of \$13.56 per hour.

## The right services to the right people

Individuals aged 18 or older who meet the Workforce Investment Act's citizenship, low-income and selective-service requirements are eligible for services through the WIA Adult program. WIA provides three progressive levels of service to enhance participants' abilities to find work.

1. The first level, called **core**, encompasses basic employment-related services.
2. Core-service recipients are individuals who are unable to find work or a job that supports them. They are eligible for **intensive services**, which provide career assessment, planning and short-term pre-vocational training.

**Training** is designed for participants who have the hardest time finding work. These services include occupational skills, on-the-job training, skill upgrades, education and literacy training. Priority is given to individuals who have the most barriers in finding employment; typically, these are welfare recipients, other low-income individuals and veterans who meet eligibility requirements.

**Programs and services are tailored to local needs****Funding distributed locally**

The U.S. Department of Labor distributes WIA funds to the Employment Security Department to allocate to the state's 12 workforce development councils based on the employment and demographic characteristics of each area. Each council decides how it will deliver WIA Adult program services by submitting a plan for the Governor's approval. The councils, with their partners, design the best service-delivery format, taking into account the community's job market and the needs of local industries. The councils are accountable to the Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board, Employment Security Department and U.S. Department of Labor for participants' success through measures related to employment, retention, and earnings.

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