WorkFirst

Helping you help yourself and your family.

WASHINGTON
WorkFirst

WorkFirst Services

WorkFirst services are available to help you through your temporary situation. We are here to help you get a job and keep it. We can help you discover:

- Job skills, abilities, and interests you have
- Jobs are available in your area

But you have to do your part, too. Parents that do not participate in the WorkFirst program risk losing their cash grant.

"Work is the best avenue to break the cycle of poverty for families."

Governor Christine O. Gregoire
November 10, 2005

WorkFirst Opportunities

Do you want to earn a living for your family?

WorkFirst can help you earn enough money to provide for your children. We have lots of opportunities available including:

- Help finding a job
- Training and education
- Community Jobs (paid work experience)
- Work experience
- Help with meeting work expenses, like transportation and child care

Work Pays!

Work is better than welfare.

When you bring home a paycheck, you can buy more things for your family!

Welfare	A Paycheck
$546.00 per month*	$1,376.00 per month ($8.00 an hour for a 40 hour work week)

*family of three

Personalized Comprehensive Evaluation

Receive a personalized comprehensive evaluation given by a team of professionals. It's an evaluation that will:

- Help identify services and activities that WorkFirst can provide to help you reach your employment goals.
- Evaluate your education and training needs and interests.
- Help you identify your skills and strengths.
- Help you develop short – and long-term employment goals.
- Give you information about employers in your community.

Help Finding a Job

Expert employment service staff will work with you to:

- Discover valuable information about your interests and job skills.
- Create a resume that gets results.
- Practice proven interviewing techniques.
- Locate local employers who are hiring.
- Connect you with the highest paying jobs you qualify for.
- Feel confident as you meet and interact with employers.

Education and Training Opportunities

Open the door to employment and career advancement and *earn more money*.

- Finish high school or get your GED.
- Improve your English, reading, writing and math in adult basic education (ABE) or English second-language (ESL) classes.
- Learn new job skills in professional, technical or vocational programs.
- Learn about financial aid and student support services.

For more information, visit your local community or technical college or talk with your DSHS case manager.

Community Jobs – paid work experience

Community Jobs will offer you the chance to:

- Gain valuable work skills at a paid worksite.
- Develop workplace skills to prepare you for future jobs.
- Help you better manage the challenges in your life.
- Access training and education opportunities while working.
- Learn tools that will help you and your family get off TANF.

Contact your Case Manager for more information.

Sanction

WorkFirst offers many supports and services to help you through your temporary situation. You must participate in the program and take advantage of the supports designed to help you find and keep a job. If you choose not to participate, you risk losing your cash grant.

We want to help you build a better plan for you and your children, but you must do your part, too.

Child Care

- We may help pay for child care while you work, or in some instances, go to school.
- You only have to pay a part of the cost of child care, for some families, it's as little as $15.
- There are several different types of child care providers to choose from.

For help finding a licensed child care provider call the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency at:

1-800-446-1114

Employment Support

WorkFirst support services pay for things you need to work, look for work, or prepare for work.

Support services may include:

- Transportation (bus passes, gas).
- Interview and work clothes.
- Tools and equipment.
- Other work expenses like commercial driver's license fees.

Please contact your worker for more information.

Family Planning Information

Let's talk about why Family Planning is important!

You can decide when you are ready to have another child. Family planning gives you choices and control over your financial future.

- A family planning nurse is available in your office, or you can use the hotline for more information.
- The nurse can explain what family planning methods are available so you can decide what will work best for you.
- Your medical ID card pays for prescription contraception, emergency contraception, and some over-the-counter methods.

Family Planning Hotline

1-800-770-4334

Notes and phone numbers:

Family Violence Information

- Is someone hurting you or have you been hurt?
- Would you like help dealing with someone who is threatening or stalking you?
- Are you worried that participating in regular WorkFirst activities or collecting child support could be dangerous or make things more difficult for you or your children?

If so, we can refer you to people who can help you plan for your safety, provide ongoing emotional support, and connect you to other helpful resources.

We may also be able to excuse you from work activities and child support collection – please talk with your worker for more information.

You may also contact the Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-562-6025 for information, referrals, and support. Calls to the hotline are free and confidential.

Child Support

Child Support can:

- Be collected from a parent who does not live with the child.
- Help you be independent.
- Help your children have a better life.
- Give you more money for clothes, food, and other important things.

Please talk to your Support Enforcement Officer if you have any questions, or call:

1-800-442-5437

Leaving WorkFirst?

You can get help once you leave WorkFirst

Transitional Food Assistance
- We set up stable food assistance benefits for up to 5 months

Medical Extension Benefits
- Guaranteed medical coverage for 6 months if you earn a paycheck (and maybe up to 12 months)

Support Services
- May be available on request for up to 6 months

HUD Housing
- Help finding low-cost housing

Child Support Collections
- We still collect child support, but now it goes to you!

Child Care
- You may still get child care if you are working

Training and Education
- Through your local community and technical college

Help with finding a better job
- Go to any WorkSource

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- A tax break for low-income working families

LIHEAP
- Help paying your heating and cooling costs

Local Resources

WorkFirst website:

www.workfirst.wa.gov/

Local Websites:

www.localhelp.com

- **Local Food Banks**
- **Local Connections**
- **Local Medical Clinics**
- **Child Support and Local Resources**

More local information:

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Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

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