WorkFirst

Helping you help yourself and your family.

Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Transforming lives

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 that are available in your area

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
- Work experience programs
- 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
$569.00 per month*	$1,992.00 per month ($11.50 an hour for a 40 hour work week)**

*TANF grant for a family of three
**Based on State Minimum wage as of July 2018

Comprehensive Evaluation

Receive a family focused comprehensive evaluation that will help you:

- Identify services and activities that will help you reach your employment goals.
- Explore your education and training needs and interests.
- Identify your skills and strengths.
- Address any barriers that may limit your ability to work, look for work, or prepare for work.
- Develop short – and long-term employment goals.

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.

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

Work Experience

There are several work experience programs that may offer you the chance to:

- Gain valuable work skills at a 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.
- Practice tools that will help you and your family get off TANF.
- Make connections with employers and build references.

Child Care

- We may help pay for child care while you work, or in some instances, go to school.
- If eligible, 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 Child Care Aware 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:

- Bus passes
- Interview and work clothes
- Car repair
- Counseling
- Diapers
- Educational expenses
- Personal hygiene
- License / fees
- Hair cut
- Tools and equipment
- Family planning
- Gas mileage

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.

- You can contact your doctor's office, pharmacy, or family planning provider for more information.
- They can explain what family planning methods are available so you can decide what will work best for you.
- Your Medical Services card pays for prescription contraception, emergency contraception, and some over-the-counter methods.

Health Care Coverage

If you don't have health care coverage, you can apply through the Washington Healthplanfinder by:

- Calling 1-855-923-4633, or
- Completing an application online at www.wahealthplanfinder.org, or
- Dropping off a completed application at a local DSHS community service office (CSO).

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-KIDS

(1-800-442-5437)

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 temporarily excuse you from work activities and child support collection – please talk with your DSHS case manager for more information.

You may also contact the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 for information, referrals, and support. Calls to the hotline are free and confidential.

Leaving WorkFirst?

You can get help once you leave WorkFirst

Transitional Food Assistance

- You may be eligible for continued food benefits for up to 5 months. Food benefits after that depend on your income living expenses, and housing size.

Health Care Coverage

- You may qualify for health care coverage even if you no longer get TANF

Basic Food Employment and Training

- If you receive Basic Food, you may be able to access job search, job search training, educational services, skills training, community service placements, post-employment support services, and other employment opportunities. If you are already attending a community or technical college, transitioning to Basic Food Employment and Training can help you to complete your educational goals. For more information, contact your college BFET office, or go to https://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-partnership-program/basic-food-employment-training-bfet

HUD Housing

- Help finding low-cost housing go to www.hud.gov

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

Help with finding a better job

- Go to any WorkSource office. You can find the nearest office and search for jobs at WorkSourceWA.com

Leaving WorkFirst? Continued...

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

- A tax break for low-income working families:
  EITC website: www.irs.gov and search EITC.

LIHEAP

- Help paying your heating and cooling costs
  LIHEAP website: www.commerce.wa.gov and search LIHEAP.

Local Resources

WorkFirst website:

www.workfirst.wa.gov/

Washington Information Network 211:

http://win211.org

Washington Connection

http://washingtonconnection.org

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

If you have questions or need more information, please contact your CSO or contact center.

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DSHS 22-1125 (Rev. 7/18)