

Re-employment services for unemployment claimants

FACT SHEET

The Employment Security Department places a high priority on helping people receiving unemployment benefits to return to work as quickly as possible. Keeping unemployment short helps workers, since unemployment benefits cover only a portion of their lost wages. Reducing time on unemployment also protects the benefits trust fund and employers' unemployment tax rates.

Programs and services

Re-employment services are available at WorkSource employment centers in Washington. Employment Security is a partner in the WorkSource system. Claimants are registered automatically at WorkSource when they apply for unemployment benefits and are approved.

People receiving unemployment benefits must document three job search activities each week. These activities can include contacting employers about jobs or participating in WorkSource workshops.

During the early weeks of their claims, individuals identified as most likely to exhaust their unemployment benefits are scheduled for a mandatory one-on-one appointment. There they learn about their job search obligations and what WorkSource can do to help them return to work. Those who fail to report for their

appointment and other mandatory services can lose their unemployment benefits. The initial appointment includes:

- A review of unemployment eligibility
- Employability and skill assessments.
- Information about employment services available at WorkSource.
- Individualized labor market and career information.
- Help developing a customized re-employment plan.
- Referrals to more intensive services and training opportunities when appropriate, including the Training Benefits and Commissioner Approved Training programs.

Employment results

More than 50,000 claimants attended their individual appointments during the July 2016-June 2017 fiscal year. Employment outcomes for claimants 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. More than 34,000 claimants got jobs after participating in WorkSource services during the July 2016-June 2017 fiscal year.

Job searches are verified

The state legislature enacted the Job Search Review Program in 1998. Claimants are randomly scheduled to report to WorkSource to review the employer contacts they recorded on their job search logs. In addition, their identification is verified, WorkSource helps them create a plan to return to work, and they receive referrals to jobs..

