

Wagner-Peyser Act employment services

FACT SHEET

The federal Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 created a nationwide system of employment offices, known as the Employment Service, to help unemployed people find jobs and employers find qualified workers. The act was amended in the late 90s to make the Employment Service part of “one-stop” services, called WorkSource in Washington.

WorkSource centers provide universal access to an array of employment and training services so customers can find the services they need in one stop and frequently in one location. WorkSource partners include Workforce Development Councils, government agencies, community colleges and nonprofit organizations.

On average, helped 5,400 people find jobs each month in 2017 and WorkSource staff helped recruit candidates for over 9,600 employers

Services for job seekers

WorkSource offers job seekers a variety of employment-related services, including but not limited to:

- Skill assessments.
- Job search assistance.
- Job referral and placement.
- Referral to training and education resources.
- Re-employment services for unemployment insurance claimants.

In addition, WorkSource staff help:

- Enforce job search requirements for unemployment-insurance claimants, and
- Distribute labor market information produced by Employment Security to help job seekers make smart career decisions.

WorkSource employment services target individuals who historically need the most help finding work. Military veterans receive priority referral to jobs and training, as well as special employment services and assistance. The system also focuses attention and service on dislocated workers, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, welfare recipients, justice involved, teens, older workers, people with disabilities and others.





Services for employers

During the July 2016-June 2017 fiscal year, 9,617 businesses posted jobs with WorkSource. WorkSource business representatives provide valuable staffing resources, including:

- Recruitment assistance (online job posting,
- applicant matching, interview space, candidate
- assessments, tax credits for hiring).
- Job fairs and hiring events to find qualified talent.
- Wage and economic data to make informed
- business decisions.
- Referral to training resources.
- Help with hard-to-fill job openings.
- Downsizing and layoff assistance.

Technology

WorkSourceWA.com is the employment website for Washington's WorkSource system. The website offers award-winning technology and resources to help Washington employers and job seekers succeed. Every month, the website is used by job seekers to conduct more than 909,000 job searches and to submit more than 33,000 job applications. Employers also use the site, reviewing about 28,000 resumes a month. About 147,000 active job listings are typically posted at any one time. Employers post roughly 18,000 jobs each month.

Funding

For the July 2016-June 2017 program year, the U.S. Department of Labor allocated \$14.3 million for employment services in Washington, nearly \$1 million more than the year before.

Two-thirds of the funds are allocated based on the state's relative share of civilian workers compared with all other states, and one-third on the state's relative number of unemployed workers.

The majority of Wagner-Peyser funds (90 percent) to the state are designated to provide employment services to employers and job seekers. With the remaining 10 percent, the Governor may approve projects that provide federally authorized services to targeted groups of customers, provided that federal funds are not used to supplant state funds.

