



## Putting WorkFirst participants to work

## FACT SHEET

The Employment Security Department is a partner with other state agencies and communities working to provide necessary services and resources to help parents who receive cash assistance (known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF) to prepare for and go to work. These services are provided at local WorkSource centers and some Community Services Offices under the umbrella of the WorkFirst welfare reform program.

the-job-training programs to help them improve their skills while gaining real work experience.

### Evaluating skills and job readiness is crucial first step

### Work skills

As part of the WorkFirst program, participants receive comprehensive evaluations to identify services they need to quickly find a job and move toward self-sufficiency. A parent's skills, interests, education and work values are evaluated. Parents and staff compare evaluation results with local labor market information to determine the best course of action to find the highest paying jobs.

Employment services include:

- In-depth skill and education assessments.
- One-on-one case management, employment counseling and job coaching.
- Employment competency workshops, including resume development, interviewing techniques, etc.
- Assistance with job matching on WorkSourceWA.com
- On-the-job training and other job development opportunities.

### Employment-related services

Employment Security's WorkSource staff provide intensive, structured services to teach WorkFirst participants how to look for work, interview for a job, etc. Clients also may be placed in work experience or on-

### Results

To determine how many parents get jobs after participating in the WorkFirst program, Employment Security cross-references participants to employer tax and wage records. Due to lag times in reporting, it can take up to a year to calculate employment results for participants. The most recent data from October 2016 through September 2017 show that Employment Security helped more than 6,240 WorkFirst participants — or 71.1 percent — to find jobs.

