



Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act: Dislocated Worker Program

FACT SHEET

The federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides employment and training services to dislocated workers, low-income adults and youth. The services are delivered through WorkSource centers statewide. Local Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) oversee the system in partnership with state agencies, community and technical colleges, school districts, business, labor and nonprofits.

Dislocated workers are individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own (or who have received a layoff notice) and are unlikely to return to their previous occupation or industry.

The WIOA Dislocated Worker Program tailors employment and training services to meet dislocated workers' needs; provides early intervention services for

workers and firms facing substantial layoffs; and helps foster labor, management and community partnerships to address worker layoffs.

Services for dislocated workers

Dislocated workers are eligible for “basic career services” provided through WorkSource. These services include skill assessments, labor market information, information about training programs and help finding a job. Additional services are available for workers who don't find jobs through basic career services, including more intensive assessments, counseling, skill development and vocational-technical training.

Participants may receive help paying for training and support services while in training. Local WDCs determine the maximum size and duration of individual assistance in their areas. Training must be for occupations that are in demand in the local economy.

Rapid response aims to avoid layoffs – then coordinates services in the wake of layoffs

Rapid response to major layoffs

When a major layoff is announced, the state's rapid response team swings into gear to avoid the layoff, if possible. If a layoff is inevitable, workers may receive re-employment and retraining assistance. The rapid response team also coordinates state and local agencies to get help quickly to workers and communities.





Funding and participation

The U.S. Department of Labor allocated nearly \$26.8 million to Washington for WIOA dislocated worker programs for the July 2018-June 2019 program year. For the July 2017-June 2018 program year, the federal Department of Labor allocated \$29.2 million. During that time, dislocated worker services were provided to 5,045 participants in Washington; 2,360 of them received training funds.

Employment outcomes for participants are determined by cross referencing employer tax-and-wage records. Due to lag times in reporting, it can take up to a year to calculate the employment results for participants. Of those exiting the program from July 2016 through December 2016, 78.6 percent were employed four quarters after exiting the program.

Workers interested in more information on services for dislocated workers should visit their local WorkSource center. Find a list of centers at WorkSourceWA.com.

