



Basic Food Employment & Training Program

FACT SHEET

Washington state’s Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) Program helps low-income individuals and displaced workers reach their potential by encouraging economic well-being through skill acquisition, personal responsibility and gainful employment.

Through BFET, the Employment Security Department (ESD) provides employment readiness opportunities to recipients of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program who are not receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. The WorkFirst Program serves those customers.

From October 2017 to September 2018, ESD served 1,101 BFET participants. During this period, 411 individuals exited the BFET program, and of those, 253 got a job.

Through the BFET Program, ESD provides intensive, comprehensive help to individuals with barriers to employment. Many job seekers served through BFET lack a high school diploma or GED, have background issues or are struggling with addiction, mental health issues, homelessness or low self-esteem. With help, these individuals are getting full-time jobs and moving off of public assistance, thus increasing the pool of job-ready workers in our communities.

The BFET Program has strengthened our relationship with job seekers, community based organizations and employers.

BFET services offered at select locations

In BFET services are offered by ESD at WorkSource offices in: Bellingham, Clarkston, Colville, Kennewick, Omak, Mt. Vernon, Spokane, Sunnyside, Vancouver, Walla Walla, Whidbey Island and Yakima.

Employment services offered at these locations can include:

- A comprehensive employment assessment
- Introduction to career exploration tools and resources
- Local labor market information to help identify career pathways
- Support services
- Help preparing work search products, including resumes, applications and “60-second commercials”
- One-on-one job coaching
- Access to the WorkSource resource room and all available workshops and activities
- Job development, including work experience opportunities
- Job referrals
- Job clubs
- Skill development
- Referrals to training opportunities
- Connections to community resources
- Career and wage progression opportunities

