

## EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

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### Financial Assistance Programs and/or Employment Standards

- ESD administers one major program that pays benefits or otherwise provides financial assistance directly to individuals.

The unemployment insurance program provides partial replacement of wages for workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own. ESD is responsible for administering benefits, collecting contributions (payroll taxes) from most private employers and reimbursements from most public employers, and managing the unemployment insurance trust fund.

Benefit-related activities include determining benefit eligibility and calculating benefit amounts. ESD determines an unemployed worker's eligibility based on whether he or she: (1) worked at least 680 hours in his or her base year; (2) was separated from employment through no fault of his or her own or quit work for good cause; and (3) is able to work and is actively seeking employment. ESD calculates the worker's benefits based on the worker's earnings in his or her base year.

Tax-related activities include assigning tax rates, determining the taxable wage base, and collecting tax payments. ESD assigns tax rates for most employers based on the employer's layoff experience and several formulae set forth in statute. ESD determines the taxable wage base using another formula set forth in statute.

- ESD does not administer or enforce any employment standards.
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### Other Programs

- Agency Administration: Executive Policy, Information Technology, Human Resources, Fiscal and Budget, Contracts, Communications, and Office Services
- Employment Services: Agricultural Services, Claimant Placement Program, Disabilities Services, and Veteran Services
- Labor Market Information
- Washington Service Corps

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