



Department of Commerce

Innovation is in our nature.

Job Connection/Career Jump

Building skills to increase employment opportunities for Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) recipients

Purpose

The Job Connection program provides participants an opportunity to build references, develop networking connections, and demonstrate their work skills by performing jobs within their chosen field of employment. Commerce contracts with 21 local community organizations to provide statewide services to qualified participants.

Strategic Goal

Mobilize and enhance local assets that strengthen a community's ability to meet the economic and social needs of Washington's families, workers and employers.

Results and Achievements

- New in July 2011.
- Job Connection expects to serve approximately 1,290 participants in fiscal year 2012. First quarter results show a 55 percent employment rate.

Services

- Contractors develop job opportunities and employ participants 20 hours per week in temporary paid positions at nonprofits or government agencies. Employment is paired with job readiness assistance and mentoring opportunities.
- Worksites are chosen that build upon the participant's skills, abilities, and that support the participant's post-TANF employment and career goals.
- On-the-job issues receive specialized attention through employment coaching and collaboration with worksite supervisors.
- In Career Jump, a subset of the Job Connection program, participants gain paid work experience while "on the job" with an employer who has agreed to hire them on their payroll at the end of the training period.

Fast Facts

- Career Jump is an enhancement to the Job Connection program that allows placement in private sector jobs.

Statutory Authority

RCW 74.08A
Washington WorkFirst Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

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