



Department of Commerce

Innovation is in our nature.

Commerce WorkFirst Program Overview

Commerce WorkFirst programs transition participants into unsubsidized employment through skill development, support services, and on-the-job employment supports.

Work activities are not time limited and count towards federal participation.

Services are designed to support participants with multiple barriers to employment including:

- Homelessness
- Domestic violence
- Criminal conviction history
- Mental illness
- Chemical dependency
- Lack of recent work history
- Lack of GED or high school diploma

How Commerce Administers WorkFirst Programs

Contracts are 100 percent performance-based with pay points tied to performance measure outcomes, program compliance, and participant progression through the program.

Local collaboration with community resources provide flexibility in programming that meets participant and labor market needs.

21 community-based organizations provide services statewide:

- 17 non-profits
- 3 for-profit
- 1 government

The Community Jobs program consists of up to six months of paid employment combined with education, training and support for resolving other barriers to employment.

Job Connection consists of up to three months of paid employment, paired with targeted job hunting and mentoring opportunities.

Contact Information

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