



Department of Commerce

Innovation is in our nature.

Community Jobs

Building skills to overcome barriers to employment for Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) recipients

Purpose

Community Jobs serves Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) recipients who have little significant work history and numerous barriers to employment. The program combines intensive case management with paid, on-the-job work experience. Commerce contracts with 21 local community organizations to provide statewide services to 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

- Since it began in 1997, the Community Jobs program has served more than 37,300 TANF participants. Annual employment outcomes averaged 40 percent during state fiscal year 2010 and continue to rise in 2011.
- Community Jobs is nationally recognized for its innovation. Staff continues to present Washington's Community Jobs Program throughout the country as a nationally recognized, highly effective transitional jobs employment program.

Services

- Contractors develop job opportunities and employ participants 20-30 hours per week in temporary paid positions at nonprofits or government agencies.
- Contractors enroll participants in education activities, provide case management, coordinate job readiness activities, and arrange work-based learning opportunities to ensure access to services leading to unsubsidized employment.
- Worksites are chosen that build upon the participant's skills, abilities, and that support the participant's post-TANF employment and career goals.
- Participants are connected to a variety of services and activities to remove barriers to employment and help stabilize their families.

Fast Facts

- Community Jobs has served more than 37,300 participants.
- The Community Jobs experience is supported with additional activities focused on life/soft skills, job hunting, job readiness, and family-centered community service volunteer activities.

Statutory Authority

RCW 74.08A
Washington WorkFirst Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

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