The Employment Security Department makes it a high priority to help people who are receiving unemployment benefits return to work as quickly as possible. Keeping periods of unemployment short benefits workers, since unemployment benefits cover only a portion of their lost wages, and it helps keep employers’ unemployment-insurance rates affordable. It also saves money for the unemployment trust fund, and productivity is better when employers’ vacancies are filled quickly.

**Programs and services**
Re-employment services are available at WorkSource career-development centers throughout Washington. Employment Security is a partner in the WorkSource system.

Claimants are registered automatically at WorkSource when they file their initial claims. This allows them to be matched with job openings listed with WorkSource from the beginning of their claims.

People receiving unemployment benefits must document three job-search activities each week. These activities can include contacting employers about jobs and/or participating in WorkSource workshops.

During the first few weeks of their claims, individuals who are identified as “most likely to exhaust their unemployment benefits” are scheduled for a mandatory orientation workshop at WorkSource. There they learn about their job-search obligations and what WorkSource can do to help them get back to work. More than 112,000 claimants attended the orientation during the July 2009–June 2010 fiscal year.

Those who fail to report for the workshop or other mandatory services can lose their unemployment benefits. The workshop includes:

- Employability and skill assessments.
- Information about employment services available at WorkSource.
- A re-employment services summary.
- Labor-market information.
- Job referrals.
- Referrals to programs for more-intensive services and training opportunities, including the Training Benefits and Commissioner-Approved Training programs, when appropriate.

More than 84,000 claimants got jobs after participating in WorkSource services during the fiscal-year 2009-10.
Job searches are verified
The state legislature enacted the Job-Search Review Program in 1998. Claimants are scheduled to report to WorkSource on a random basis for a review of the employer contacts they have recorded on their job-search logs. In addition to the log review, their identification is verified, a plan to return to work is developed with the WorkSource staff, and they are given referrals to job openings. Nearly 60,000 claimants received a job-search review during the 2009-10 fiscal year.