



Putting welfare clients to work

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Employment Security a partner in the WorkFirst program

Evaluating skills and job-readiness is crucial first step

Staying connected to Employment Security improves clients' success

The Employment Security Department is a partner with other state agencies and communities working together to provide the necessary services and resources to help people who receive public assistance (known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) prepare for and go to work. These services are provided under the umbrella of the WorkFirst program.

Work skills

As part of the WorkFirst program, participants receive comprehensive evaluations to identify what services they need to move quickly into employment and self-sufficiency. The Employment Security Department uses comprehensive evaluations to assess the parents' skills, interests and work values and develop an employment plan to address areas for improvement. Parents and staff compare evaluation results with local labor-market information to determine the best course of action to find the highest-paying entry-level jobs.

Employment-related services

Employment Security provides structured services to prepare clients to look for and hold a job. Clients learn how to look for work, interview for a job, etc. They also may be placed in work-experience or on-the-job-training programs to help them improve their skills while gaining real work experience.

Career Services Program

Employment Security started the Career Services Program in July 2007 for WorkFirst participants who get jobs and work a minimum of 30 hours per week. The program helps working parents stay employed and improve their wages over time. Employment Security counselors provide employment counseling to encourage and help workers to keep their jobs. They also make referrals to training to prepare parents for better-paying jobs.

Working parents who enroll in the program and maintain eligibility may receive \$50 per month in cash bonuses (a total of \$650) for up to six months if they participate in employment-retention and advancement services through their WorkSource office.

Contacts

Sandy Miller, program manager, 360-438-4135
Jennifer Peppin, communications manager, 360-902-0904