



Workforce Investment Act Adult Program

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Workforce Investment Act programs provided through Washington's WorkSource system

WIA Adult programs serve ages 18 and up

Federal funding has declined since FY 2002-03

Services are tiered based on level of need

In 1998, Congress adopted the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to provide workforce preparation and employment services for dislocated workers and low-income youths and adults. It created an integrated service-delivery system that offers a comprehensive array of services through one-stop centers, affiliate sites and the Internet. Here in Washington, WIA services are provided through WorkSource, a partnership of state agencies, 12 local workforce development councils, community and technical colleges, and non-profit service providers.

The U.S. economy has experienced changes in the past decade that have made it difficult for many employers to find qualified workers and for certain job seekers to find stable, high-wage jobs. To help workers and employers overcome these barriers, the Workforce Investment Act's Adult Title 1-B Program provides an array of workforce preparation and employment services that, each year, transform thousands of adults aged 18 or older into skilled workers.

Funding and participation

From July 2007 through June 2008, 5,782 Washington adults participated in WIA Adult programs, and 80.1 percent of them got jobs after receiving services.

The U.S. Department of Labor government has allocated \$18.7 million to Washington for WIA Adult programs in the July 2008-June 2009 fiscal year. Although this allotment is an increase of more than \$200,000 from last year, it is \$7 million less than 2002-03 funding levels.

All of the WIA programs (Dislocated Worker, Youth and Adult) have received dwindling funds since the 2002-03 fiscal year. Although WIA authorization expired in 2003, states are still operating the programs under a continuing resolution while Congress debates reauthorization.

The right services to the right people

Individuals 18 years or older who fulfill WIA's citizenship, low-income and selective-service requirements are eligible to receive services through the WIA Adult program. WIA provides three progressive levels of service to enhance all participants' abilities to find work.

1. The first level, called **core**, encompasses basic employment-related services.
2. Core-service recipients who are unable to find work or a job that supports them are eligible for the next level of service: **intensive**. Intensive services provide career assessment, planning and short-term pre-vocational training.

3. **Training** is designed for participants who have the most difficulty finding work. These services include occupational skills, on-the-job training, skill upgrades, adult education and literacy. Priority is given to individuals who experience the most barriers in finding employment; typically, these are welfare recipients, other low-income individuals and veterans who meet eligibility requirements.

Funding distributed locally

The U.S. Department of Labor distributes WIA funds to the Employment Security Department to allocate to the state's 12 workforce development councils, based on the employment and demographic characteristics of each area. Each council decides how it will deliver WIA Adult program services by submitting a plan for the Governor's approval. The councils, with their partners, design the best service-delivery format, taking into account the community's job market and the needs of local industries. The councils are accountable to the Employment Security Department for participants' success through measures related to employment, earnings and satisfaction.

Programs and services are tailored to local needs

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