



Workforce Investment Act Dislocated-Worker Program

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**Workforce
Investment Act
programs
provided
through
Washington's
WorkSource
system**

**Dislocated
workers can get
job-placement
and retraining
assistance**

**Rapid response
aims to avoid
layoffs – then
coordinates
services in the
wake of layoffs**

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.

Dislocated workers are individuals who are unemployed (or who have received a layoff notice) and are unlikely to return to their previous occupation or industry. The WIA Dislocated-Worker Program tailors employment and training services to meet dislocated-workers' needs; provides early intervention services for workers and firms facing substantial layoffs; and fosters labor, management and community partnerships to address worker layoffs.

Services for dislocated workers

Dislocated workers are eligible for "core services" that are provided through WorkSource. Core services include skill assessments, labor-market information, information about training programs and assistance with finding a job. Additional services are available for eligible dislocated workers who are unable to get jobs through core services. This sequence of services is individualized and may include more-intensive assessments, counseling, and prevocational and vocational training.

In addition to core services, participants may receive individual training accounts to pay for training. Each of the state's 12 workforce development councils determines the maximum size and duration of accounts in its area. Training must be for occupations that are in demand in the local economy.

Rapid response to major layoffs

When a major layoff is announced, the state's Rapid Response Team swings into gear. Efforts are made to avoid the layoff, if possible. If a layoff is inevitable, workers may receive reemployment and retraining assistance. The Rapid Response Team also coordinates state and local agencies to get help quickly to workers and communities.

Funding and participation

From July 2007 through June 2008, dislocated-worker services were provided to 6,755 participants in Washington; 4,021 of them received training funds. For the dislocated workers who exited the program during those 12 months, 91.5 percent found a job and

**Participants
average more
than 94% of pre-
layoff wages
when they return
to work**

were employed for at least three consecutive quarters. Wages averaged \$16.59 an hour in the first job after participating in the program, which averaged 94.5 percent of their pre-layoff wage levels.

The U.S. Department of Labor government has allocated almost \$22.2 million to Washington for WIA dislocated-worker programs in the July 2008-June 2009 fiscal year. This is \$4 million less than 2007 funding and \$17 million less than 2003.

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