



Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Employment Security Department
WASHINGTON STATE

ASWS Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, January 17, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Housekeeping



RECORDING ANNOUNCEMENT:

This meeting is being recorded. Please be advised that your image and voice will be captured and recorded during the videoconference. Your participation in this videoconference equals consent to be recorded.

ANUNCIO GRABADO:

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Agenda

AGENDA

Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services (ASWS) Advisory Committee

Friday, January 17, 2024 | 9:00 am – 11:00 am | **Zoom** | 212 Maple Park Ave SE Olympia, WA 98501

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9:00 am	Agenda review	Joy Adams , Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD
9:10 am	ASWS Office Update	Bertha J. Clayton , Director, ASWS Office, ESD Petra Meraz , Supervisor, Foreign Labor Certification Program, ASWS Office, ESD Carlos Sandoval-Larios , Temporary Supervisor, Compliance Team, ASWS Office, ESD
9:25 am	Workforce Services Division Update “formerly known as Employment Connections”	Craig Carroll , Business Operations Manager, Workforce Services Division (WSD), ESD
9:40 am	2025 Legislative Session Preview	Joy Adams , Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD
9:50 am	“H-2A Corner”	Joy Adams , Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD Bertha J. Clayton , Director, ASWS Office, ESD
Committee Business:		
10:15 am	Roll Call (all members must be present) Approval of October 2024 minutes Approval of November 2024 minutes	Vickie Carlson , Management Analyst, ASWS Office, ESD
10:25 am	Schedule planning for 2025	Joy Adams , Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD Bertha J. Clayton , Director, ASWS Office, ESD
Closing		
10:55 am	Public Comment Good of the Order Adjournment	Joy Adams , Policy Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD
11:00 am	Next meeting:	

GROUND RULES

No side conversations | Phones on silent | Let people speak without interruption | Respect the opinion of others | Strive for understanding | Speak your mind | Strive for common ground | Assume good intent | Stay focused on task at hand and be willing to come back to the topic | Make sure everyone understands | Look out for each other | Take care of your own comfort | Ask for what you need |

ASWS Office Update - *January 2025*



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Bertha J. Clayton, ASWS Director, ESD

Office Updates



1. Governor Inslee's budget inclusive of Ag. Decision Package requests
 - Re-classification of compliance staff from PS-3 to PS-4
 - Additional travel funding for outreach and compliance
 - Job order coordinator (Workforce Services Division) to coordinate inter-divisional domestic recruitment work
2. ASWS Foreign Labor Certification operational changes
 - Prevailing wage reinstatement/H-2A Worker Protection Rule injunction (*Barton*)
 - "Productivity Standards"
 - "9 and under" H-2A temporary worker housing
3. ASWS Compliance Team
 - Assistance to federal enforcement agencies
 - Complaint intake and investigation
 - "9 and under" H-2A temporary worker housing inspections

Office Updates



4. Staff Recruitment Update

- Compliance supervisor will start on 2/3/25
- State Monitor Advocate recruitment posted! (will report to ESD Commissioner's office)

5. Inter-agency coordination

Inter-agency agreement	Agencies	Projected Completion Date
SMA & National Farmworker Jobs Program Grantee	ESD SMA – Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA (OIC)	January 2025
Field Check Coordination	ESD-LNI-DOH-WSDA	February 2025
H-2A Temporary Worker Housing Inspections, Licensing & Certification	ESD-DOH-LNI	March 2025
H-2A Complaint Data Sharing Agreement	ESD-LNI	Approx. March 2025

Processing and Adjudicating Foreign Labor Certification Applications



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Petra Meraz, Foreign Labor Certification Program Supervisor, ASWS, ESD

Year to Date Comparison



	2025	2024	% YoY Increase or Decrease
■ # Applications	159	125	27% ↑
■ # Workers Requested	10544	9603	10% ↑
■ # W/D & Removed Applications	33	5	560% ↑
■ # W/D & Removed Workers	1869	64	2820% ↑
■ # DOL Denied Applications	0	2	
■ # DOL Denied Workers	0	20	
■ # Impossibilities Applications	0	1	
■ # Impossibilities Workers	0	5	
■ # Certified Contracts	45	0	
■ # Certified Workers **	3488	0	

Commenced & Active YTD Comparison



PY 2025

Active Contracts

PY24 & PY25

Began 10/1/2023 still active 12/31/2024

Contracts	16
Workers	258

Commenced Contracts

Began 10/1/2024 still active as of 12/31/2024

Contracts	3
Workers	21

PY 2024

Active Contracts

PY23 & PY24

Began 10/1/2022 still active as of 12/31/2023

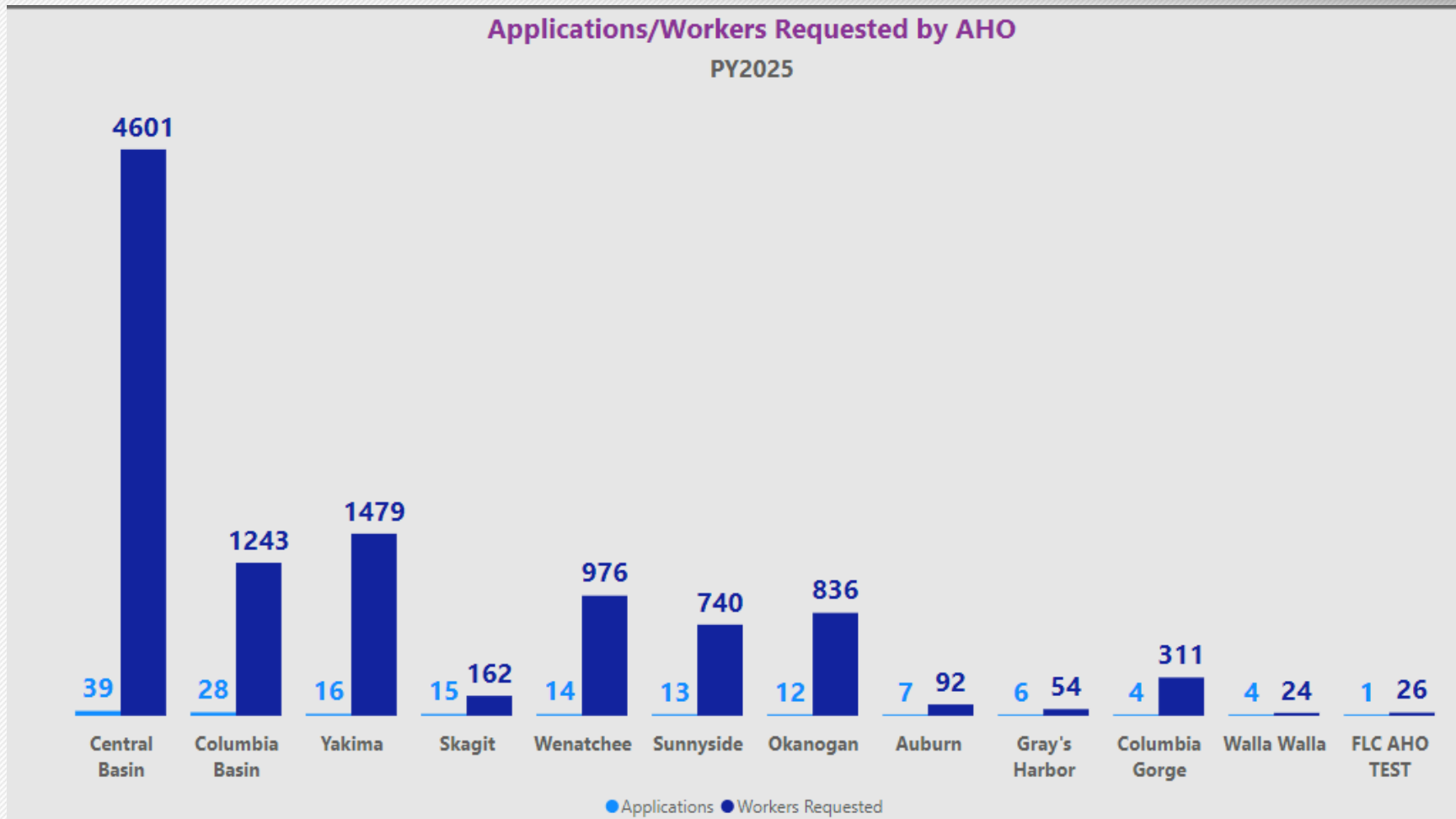
Contracts	2
Workers	28

Commenced Contracts

Began 10/1/2023 still active as of 12/31/2023

Contracts	1
Workers	9

Applications/Workers requested by AHO



Completing Site Visits, (field visits) Field Checks and Complaint Resolution



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Carlos Sandoval-Larios, Temporary Compliance Team Supervisor, ASWS, ESD



ASWS Compliance Team

Site Visits, Field Checks, Complaints & Status

This is cumulative data for Program Year 2025.

October 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024

Site Visits Conducted

32

Site visits

1,708

Workers contacted

Field Checks Conducted

2

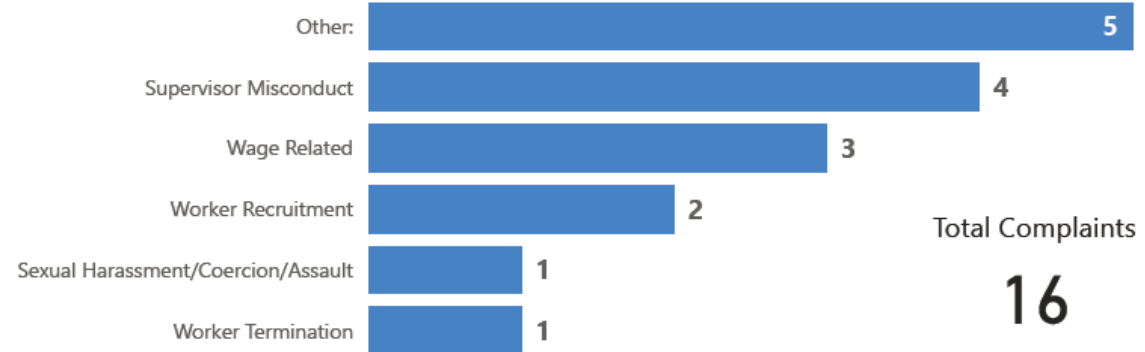
Field checks

6

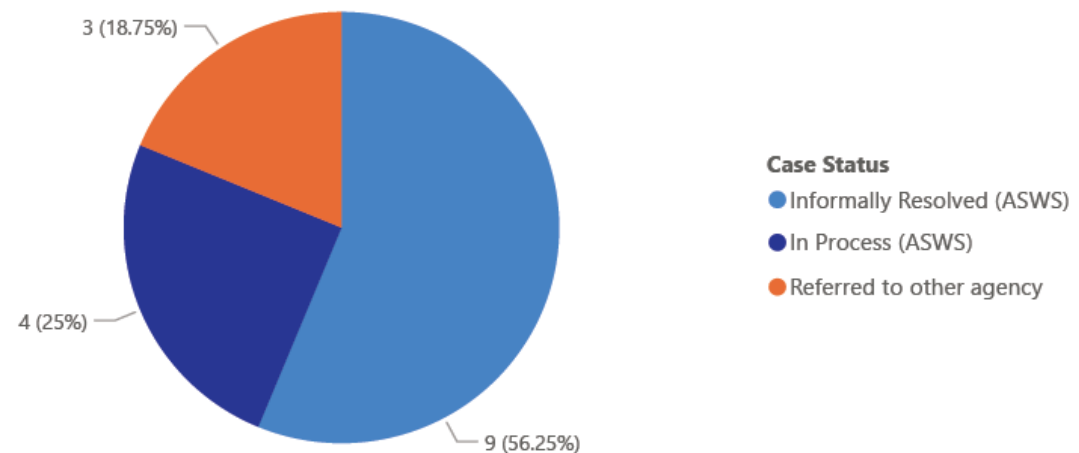
Workers

Each field check conducted contained 3 worker referrals

Complaints/Apparent Violations by Type



Status of Complaints



ESD ASWS H-2A Data Collection RCW 50.75.060 Qtr. 1 (10/1/24-12/31/24)



Field Visits (Site Visits)

32 site visits

1708 workers requested/1624 workers
reported by employer (95%)

Field Checks

2 field checks

84 total workers requested/83 total workers
reported by employer (99%)

Workforce Services - *January 2025*



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Craig Carroll, Business Operations Manager, Workforce Services Division (WSD), ESD

MSFW Outreach Performance



Workforce Services Division (WSD) July through December		
Program Year	2023	2024
Total FTEs*	11	11
Total Outreach Days	814	815
Total Number of MSFWs Contacted	15,188	16,218

** 9 dedicated FTEs (MSFW Staff) and 2 FTEs allocated to non-Ag. areas.*

Complaints and Apparent Violations



Workforce Services Division (WSD)

January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

Total Number of Complaints	22
Total Number of Apparent Violations	26
Total Referred (29 H-2A related)	39
Total Resolved (at local level)	9

Highlights of Outreach to Farmworkers



Manson & Orondo Area

MSFW Staff assists farmworker find employment and housing

- MSFW from California returned to WA for seasonal employment, expecting to work at an orchard which had been pushed out.
- Without shelter, MSFW stayed in neighboring MSFW camp and was thrown out by employer due to trespassing.
- MSFW staff assisted customer in navigating bus system and led him to Monitor MSFW Camp where they networked with manager.
- **Result:** MSFW was hired for summer employment and found housing.

Wenatchee Area

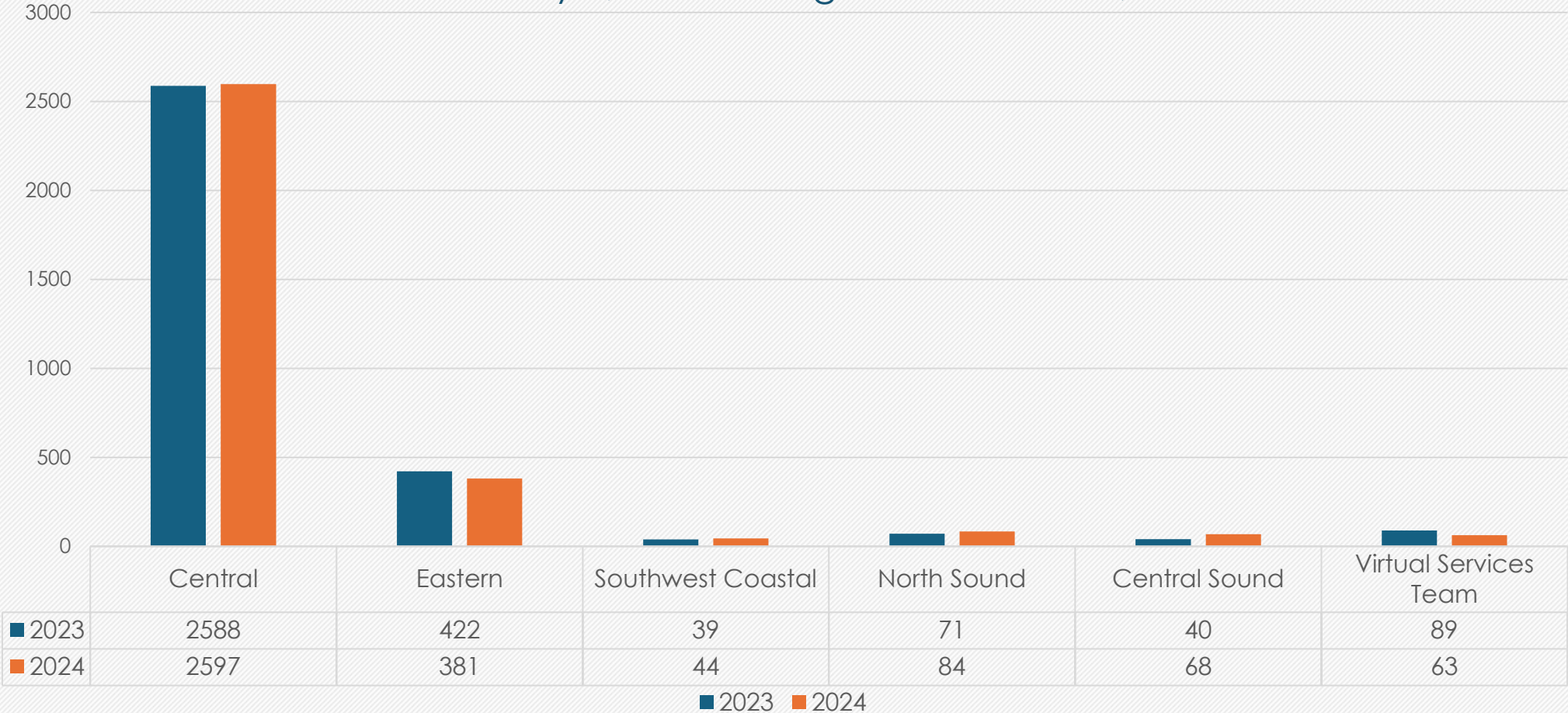
Collaborative meeting with Ag. Employer

- Coordinated a meeting between local business services team, OIC of WA, and employer HR team.
- Offered tailored presentation on ESD's Shared Work program and potential trainings for workers and their families.
- **Result:** Employer has shown increased engagement and reached out to request information on CPR training and sexual harassment training.

MSFWs Served by Region • Rolling 12 Months



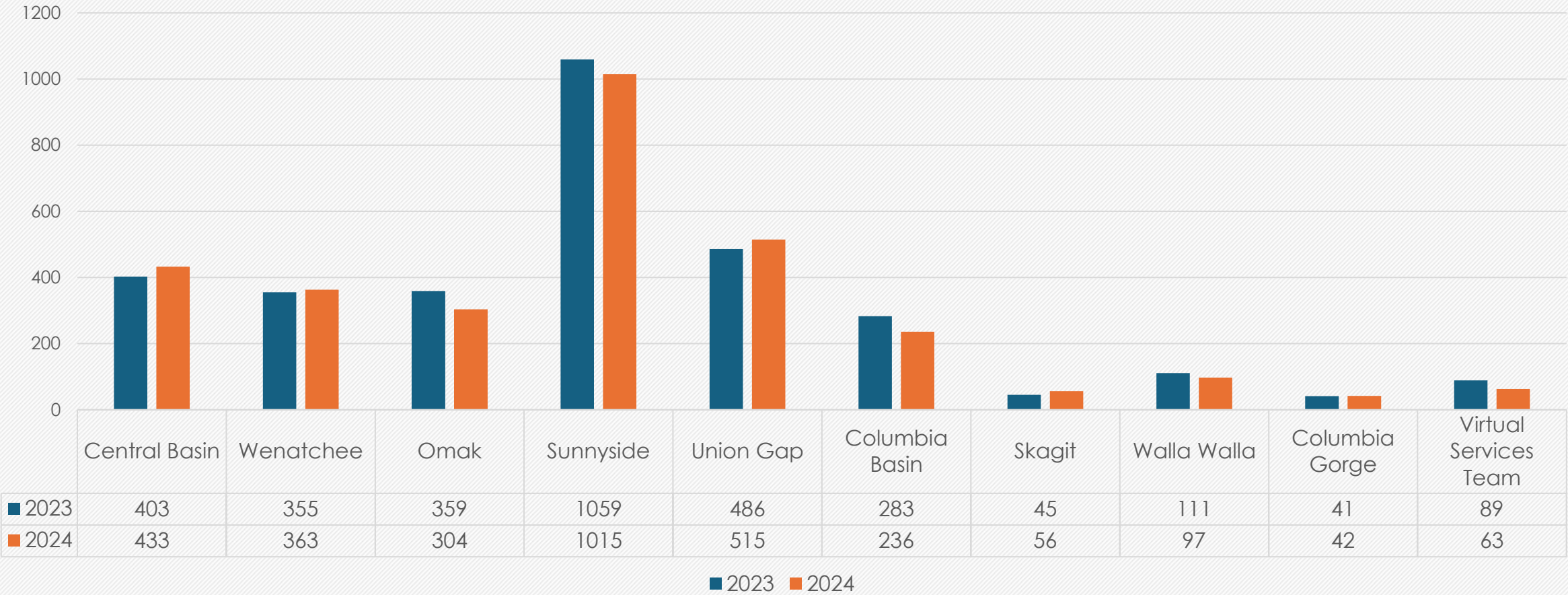
January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024



MSFWs Served by Significant Office • Rolling 12 Months



January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024



Services Provided To MSFWs



Top 5 Services

January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

1.	Translation/Interpretation Services
2.	Provided WorkForce Information
3.	RESEA (Reemployment Services)
4.	Meaningful UI Assistance
5.	Deskside Job Seeker Assistance

Improvements to the Referral Process



► New Process Improvements

- Improved tracking of Clearance Order referrals
 - 2023 - Total of 43% referrals made in WSWA.com were recorded in ETO
 - 2024 - 80% of referrals made in WSWA.com are recorded in ETO
- Referring staff send email at time of referral to employer

2025 Legislative Session Preview



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Joy Adams, Director, Employment Systems Policy Integrity (ESPI), ESD

2025 Legislative Session Preview



Governor Inslee's Proposed Operating Budget

Agricultural Workforce Services

Decision Package	ESD Request	Governor's budget
Agricultural Workforce Services	\$6,406,000 FTE: 6.0 Fund: General Fund-State	\$562,000 FTE: 1.0 Fund: CPP

**Total amounts for the 25-27 biennium*

- ESD requested funding to expand the program to improve service to domestic and H-2A farmworkers; centralize management of H-2A job orders and track referral outcomes consistently; and improve communication to farmworkers and employers. Request included a fund swap of the current program from ESD's state account (CPP) to General Fund State.
- Governor's budget funded position reclassifications for current staff, increased travel costs and one new position to create a central point of oversight of domestic farmworker recruitment, referral, and placement.

[Governor Ferguson's Budget Priorities](#)

H-2A Corner



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Joy Adams, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD
Bertha J. Clayton, Director, ASWS Office, ESD

Committee Business



- Roll Call (all members must be present)
- Approval of October 2024 minutes
- Approval of November 2024 minutes

Schedule planning for 2025

Joy Adams, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD

Bertha J. Clayton, Director, ASWS Office, ESD



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Schedule planning for 2025



Considerations:

1. Will a balance of voices be able to participate?
1. Will members be available to join for the entirety of the meeting?
2. Will there be sufficient business to justify the time required?

Schedule Options:

- Monthly, Wednesdays (cont.) current schedule
- Monthly, Fridays, 2hrs (opportunities to participate?)
- Quarterly, Fridays, 3hrs
- Twice a year, Thursdays, all-day 8 am- 4:30 pm & 2hr virtual planning meeting in January

Features:

All options include an evening in-person meeting in May

All options include at least three in-person meetings (w/ the exception of retreat format)

Public Comment



PUBLIC COMMENT:

If you would like to make public comment, including any suggested future agenda items, please state your name and spell it so we can capture it correctly for the minutes, as well as the organization you represent if any. Your comments are being recorded. However, if you would like your comments to be included in the meeting minutes, please submit them in writing via email to Vickie Carlson at Vickie.Carlson@esd.wa.gov. Please limit your comments to two minutes.

COMENTARIO PUBLICO:

Si desea hacer un comentario público, incluyendo temas ó elementos de seguridad para agendas futuras, por favor indique su nombre y deletreéelo para poder capturarlo correctamente en los apuntes de la junta, también indique la organización a la que representa si hay alguna. Sus comentarios estan siendo grabados. Sin embargo, si desea que sus comentarios sean incluidos en los apuntes de la junta, por favor envíelos por escrito por correo electrónico a Vickie Carlson a vickie.carlson@esd.wa.gov. Por favor limite sus comentarios a dos minutos.

Good of the Order



- Future Agenda Items