

Workforce & Career Development Division

Director's Corner

The WorkSource system and ESD are undergoing tremendous changes in 2016 as we work to better integrate under the directive of WIOA, upgrade our technology systems and align the work with where it fits best.

Next week we'll launch WIT, the first major technology upgrade to hit our system since SKIES was released over a decade ago. The May 3rd "soft launch" will give staff time to learn to navigate the new system and introduce WorkSource customers to the new and improved resume and job search tools. I want to say a huge THANKS! to the countless ESD, WDC and partner staff for their eagerness to be involved and hours of testing to ensure a successful launch. We'll all have lots of learning to do as we move the project forward toward our big launch to the public and employers in July.

In the midst of all the excitement, WCDD Central Office staff have been involved in a challenging internal reorganization, which will realign functions within the agency where they make the most sense and move ESD program work to the field and closer to customers. I am very proud of staff for the hard work they've done in helping to identify the roles and responsibilities for their functions so that as the realignment unfolds we have solid plan to ensure the least amount of disruption to our customers.

At the end of the day, I am so very proud to work with such amazing staff across our system. Watching everyone embrace the changes afoot while continuing to meet our customers' needs is truly inspiring.

Best,
Kelly Lindseth

E2SSB 6455 Signed by Governor

Governor Inslee signed Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 6455 (Expanding the professional educator workforce by increasing career opportunities in education, creating a more robust enrollment forecasting, and enhancing recruitment efforts) into law on April 1. Among the bill's many elements is a requirement that the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) develop and implement a statewide initiative to increase the number of individuals applying for teaching positions.

To that end, OSPI must partner with Employment Security (ESD) to (1) develop a targeted teacher recruitment campaign, (2) include certificated teaching positions in ESD's new WorkSourceWA.com job matching web site, (3) create or enhance an existing web site to provide information to individuals interested in teaching, and (4) conduct other activities that increase the number of qualified individuals applying for teaching positions in Washington. The bill also requires OSPI to report to the legislature by December 1, 2019 on the effectiveness of this collaboration in order to determine whether to retain, modify or eliminate these requirements, including whether or not to extend the July 1, 2020 expiration date of this part of the statute.

Veterans Receiving Post-9/11 Education Assistance and UI

Late last year, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act of 2016. Public Law 114-92, which was effective November 25, 2015, makes some veterans receiving Post-9/11 GI Bill education payments ineligible for unemployment benefits. On April 15, the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) published [Unemployment Insurance Program Letter \(UIPL\) 14-16](#) (The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 - Provisions that Affect the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-service members Programs) with its first guidance on this law change. The UIPL explains that USDOL is still busy coordinating with the Veterans' Administration (VA) on procedures to exchange information with states in order to implement this new law affecting unemployment compensation for ex-service members (also known as UCX).

Bottom line: "Future guidance will be issued regarding state responsibilities to address Post 9-11 educational assistance for impacted UCX claimants." To that end, ESD will continue paying unemployment benefits, as if the law has not changed, until such time as ESD receives further guidance from USDOL.

Questions should be submitted directly to [Employment System Administration & Policy](#) with the subject line: **Veterans and UI**.

Public Comment Period for Local WIOA Plans Begins May 2

The public comment period for local WIOA plans is May 2-31. The Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) is posting all draft plans on its [website](#). System stakeholders are encouraged to review the plans and provide comment to the appropriate local boards.

PY16/FY17 Title I State Allotments Announced

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) recently announced the PY16/FY17 WIOA Title I state allotments through [Training and Employment Guidance Letter \(TEGL\) 17-15](#). PY16/FY17 covers April 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 for the Youth program and July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 for the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs. Washington's overall Title I allotment for PY16/FY17 is \$59,133,998, which is 17.5 percent increase over PY15/FY16. The program-specific state allotments were \$18,966,351 for Youth (18.9 percent increase), \$17,705,363 (19.1 percent increase) for Adults, and \$22,462,284 (15.0 percent increase) for Dislocated Workers. The local area allotments were calculated and will be announced through WorkSource Information Notice (WIN) 0076 after the formula grant packages were issued to local areas. TEGL 17-15 also announced Washington's Wagner-Peyser grant of \$14,323,487 (4.1 percent increase) and Workforce Information Grant of \$671,496 (0.7 percent increase) for PY16/FY17.

Washington Service Corps Youth Program Update

"What is so promising about this model and method of education is that it actually works. I have seen cases where students deemed unfit for a "regular" high school setting have excelled within our classrooms and have gone on to complete their GEDs. There have been other cases where students start off at a lower than 6th grade education level, then jump all the way up to high school level," reflected Nikko Francisco, WSC AmeriCorps member who serves at Learning Center North through the Workforce Development Council (WDC) of Seattle-King County.

Nikko is but one of many members in the Washington Service Corps Youth Program who have seen the individuals to which they've provided training, tutoring and mentoring make enormous strides in completing their high school education, going to college, or landing a job.

Chris Granison, who is currently serving his second AmeriCorps term with Pacific Mountain WDC, commented on the difference AmeriCorps members make in the lives of individuals they help: "I feel as though having an AmeriCorps member participating in activities, working side by side with students on their academics, and providing a ready ear to listen as they talk through situations in their lives is improving the quality of the program. Not only the quality of program, but more importantly, the experience participants [have] in the program."

Through the end of the second quarter, over 2,000 economically disadvantaged youth were trained in workplace readiness, already surpassing the original target goal. A number of other program goals are also on track to be met, including the number of students acquiring a GED, those entering post-secondary education, and individuals who will earn a post-secondary degree.

Governor Inslee Helps Launch Phase 2 of YouthWorks

Governor Inslee helped launch Phase 2 of the YouthWorks program at an event in Seattle on April 7. Phase 2 of YouthWorks represents a more than \$2 million investment, the majority being WIOA Title I Governor's discretionary funds, to fund Local Workforce Development Board initiatives around youth career readiness and work-based learning in 2016-18. To read more about the initiative, please see Employment Security's [news release](#). You can also view the [TVW's segment on the YouthWorks program](#) in its weekly show, The Impact.



New Policy Guidance

[WIOA Policy 5616:](#)
Customized Training

[WIN 0074:](#)
Distribution of FY16 Rapid Response Funds to Local Areas to Increase FY16 Dislocated Worker Program Allotments

[WIN 0075:](#)
Enrollment of Incumbent Workers into WIOA Dislocated Worker-funded Programs in SKIES Prior to WIT Go-live

[WIN 0076:](#)
PY16 and FY17 WIOA Title I Allotments by WDA

May 2016 Featured Events

None this month.