

System focus

Programs ♦ WorkSource Operations ♦ Technical Assistance

Workforce & Career Development Division

Director's Corner

This month's column comes from Mark Streuli, WCDD's new Director of Systems Technical Assistance:

I'm so pleased to return to all my friends here at ESD, having worked previously as Director of Business Services. There's just no feeling like "coming home", and that is exactly what I've felt since I started on May 1.

I so appreciate our division leadership for having both the vision and foresight to build the team so that we can best provide statewide technical assistance on myriad programs, state and federal initiatives and operational implementation of state policies and federally funded program requirements. We are here to serve the WorkSource system—YOU.

One thing we're working on is forging a partnership with Department of Enterprise Services (DES) to provide online training modules for the system. Preliminary discussions are going well, and I expect a productive partnership as we go forward.

This is an exciting time to be a part of WCDD and as I settle in, I can hardly wait to visit the field and connect with staff, administrators, regional directors, and particularly WDC partners I've had the chance to work with before. If you see me out there and we haven't met, please say hello. I'd love to meet you and thank you personally.

It's clear that it's been a rough economic road that brought us to where we are, but you've helped so many employers and employees hang in there. The future looks bright!

Additional Opportunity Act Guidance Released

The US Department of Labor (DOL) issued two additional Training and Employment Guidance Letters (TEGLs) related to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity and Act (WIOA). [TEGL 29-14](#) announced state allotments for the inaugural Program Year 2015 (PY15) WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth and Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service programs (as well as a Workforce Information Grant). The total PY15 funding for Washington is nearly \$64.8 million, which is about one-half of one percent lower than the state's total allotment in PY14. [TEGL 34-14](#) announced the awards to states of PY 2014 Dislocated Worker National Reserve funds for WIOA implementation activities. Washington's share was nearly \$208,000.

WTECB Actions on WIOA

The state's Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) convened a regular meeting on May 28. Tops on the agenda were reports and action items from the board's WIOA Implementation Steering Committee and its three sub-committees (Local Governance and Sector Strategies, Accountability and Eligible Training Provider List, and Education and Career Pathways and Integrated Service Model); reports from several WIOA Steering Committee task forces on unified/combined state plan, one-stop certification, assessment criteria, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), and procurement of one-stop operators; and review and endorsement of state responses to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making issued by DOL and Department of Education for WIOA.

You may visit the [WTECB website](#) for more information about their Opportunity Act implementation activities. To give feedback or ask questions about Opportunity Act implementation, please e-mail TechnicalFAQ@esd.wa.gov. You may also subscribe to ESD's new blog, ESDopportunityActNews.com, for periodic updates on Opportunity Act implementation activities.

Sector Partnership NEG Application Submitted

ESD, in collaboration with local WDC partners, submitted a proposal for the \$6.9 million Sector Partnership National Emergency Grant (NEG) announced by the DOL through TEGL 31-14. The grant targets dislocated workers, especially those facing additional barriers to reemployment (e.g., long-term unemployed, those profiled as likely to exhaust UI benefits, and post-9/11 veterans) with the goal of re-employing participants in locally/regionally identified demand sectors, which should be reinforced by the direct involvement of at least three committed sector employers in each local area that participates. If awarded, Washington proposes to serve more than 1,200 dislocated workers, with more than 700 of those receiving training and supportive services.



Employment Security Appoints New CFO

Sandi Triggs was recently appointed Employment Security Department’s Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Director of Financial and Administrative Services, a role she has held on an interim basis since March of this year. In her role, Sandi oversees budget, finance, administrative services, facilities, contracts, and procurement. Prior to assuming her current post, Sandi served as ESD’s financial services director.

New Policy Guidance

[WIN 0069](#):
PY 2015 and FY16 WIOA
Program Allotments by
WDA

WSC and WRC Ramp Up for New Program Year

Each September, the Washington Service Corps (WSC) and Washington Reading Corps (WRC) begin a new program year wherein hundreds of organizations and schools across the state host WSC AmeriCorps members to help them provide services to citizens in need and improve environmental habitats. WSC and WRC program staff reviewed and scored 285 applications from those interested in hosting members starting this September, and award notices just went out to WSC individual placement and WRC applicants. The 2015-16 program year will see 717 AmeriCorps members placed and serving at over 200 individual organizations and schools between our two programs – including 28 WorkSource offices and 11 Workforce Development Councils (WDCs)!

June 2015 Featured Events

None this month.

ESD Successfully Wraps 2014 REA Grant and Pursues RESEA Grant

The 2014 Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) grant ended on March 30, 2015 after a successful and innovative year. During the grant cycle, WorkSource offices provided a total of 41,924 REA services, exceeding the target of 40,000 REA services. We’d like to express our sincere appreciation to the WorkSource reemployment staff. Without them and their hard work, we couldn’t have met the grant requirements for this past year.

An early April debrief between WorkSource offices, Employment System Administration and Policy, Job Search Review Center, and Reemployment Services Unit provided valuable insight into what worked, what did not work, and how to improve in the next grant year.

The previous grant year brought both opportunities and challenges, including the launch of a new delivery model created using Lean principles to better engage UI claimants, the move of the Job Search Log Review (JSLR) process to the new Job Search Review Center in May 2014, and DOL’s selection of Washington as one of four participant states in a study to evaluate the effectiveness of REA service delivery. That exciting study launched in April, implementing study groups in 17 designated REA study offices for one year. ESD’s REA services goal remains steady at 40,000 throughout the study.

Meanwhile, ESD submitted a grant proposal for the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program to DOL on May 30, 2015. This grant would provide additional opportunities to serve more claimants and better serve the WPRS, long term unemployed and UCX claimants in a method similar to the REA recipients. ESD will also request funding in the 2015-2016 grant for support the transition to providing REA services under the DOL study to the RESEA model in all WorkSource offices. WCDD Central Office is currently planning statewide sessions that will incorporate field staff in the development and planning of effective service delivery under the RESEA grant.

Please send us your feedback!



We want this newsletter to reflect our system and welcome your suggestions for future articles. Let us know what you’d like to see, or send us an article about something important to you! E-mail us at ESDGPWCDDTST@esd.wa.gov.