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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND POLICY

Workforce & Career Development Division

Announcements & Updates

Policy Updates

WCDD is awaiting final comments on the Customer Concern and Complaint Resolution Policy and Handbook that were released on June 17. Comments must be sent to WCDDPolicy@ESD.WA.GOV by July 1. A webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9 from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM.

In addition, Workforce Development Councils can expect to see new guidance on the following topics in the near future:

- Individual Training Accounts;
- Documentation requirements regarding veterans' status; and
- Literacy / Numeracy and CASAS Testing.

Catchball

The Employment Security Department (ESD) would like to thank all staff and partners for their continued participation in ESD's Strategic Planning process, otherwise known as Catchball. Catchball sessions are being held in Workforce Development Areas (WDAs) throughout the state. Partners and staff who haven't participated yet and would like to should contact their local WorkSource Administrator.

Catchball is a participative approach to decision making where information and ideas are thrown and caught back and forth, up and down throughout the system. ESD plans to review the feedback and subsequently modify the draft Strategic Plan.

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WCDD has Moved

All Workforce and Career Development Division (WCDD) staff was physically consolidated in Lacey, Washington on June 14. The physical address is 640 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey WA 98503. This means new phone numbers for WCDD staff who oversee WIA, Rapid Response and TAA. The mailing address (ESD-WCDD, P.O. Box 9046, Olympia WA 98507-9046) remains the same, along with staff e-mail addresses.

Dislocated Worker Training NEG

On June 26, the Department of Labor (DOL) announced \$2.7 million in funding awarded to Washington's National Emergency Grant (NEG) application supporting dislocated workers. Grant activities are to be focused on the long-term unemployed and those likely to exhaust Unemployment Insurance benefits, as well as post-9/11 veterans. Funding for all 12 WDAs was included in the grant request, which encompassed various forms of training. Once we receive the grant package from the Department of Labor, WCDD will contact each WDA to adjust the project to fit the award amount. The funds will be effective through June 30, 2015.

WIA Title I-B Annual Report

WCDD is anticipating the release of Training and Employment Guidance Letters (TEGLs) by the DOL before the end of June that articulate requirements of states to develop and submit both a narrative report and electronic data report (ETA 9091) and file (Workforce Investment Act Standardized Record Data). This ESD-led endeavor also involves Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) staff and the Washington Workforce Association (WWA).

WTECB Action on Local Integrated Workforce Plans

Twelve (12) Local Integrated Workforce Plans were presented to the Workforce Board for action at its regular meeting on June 27 in Olympia. The action was for the Workforce Board to recommend the local plans for the Governor's approval, with some plans being approved on a contingent basis. The local plans are effective July 1, 2013.

PY 2013 Agricultural Outreach Plan

WCDD's Agricultural Services Unit is preparing to submit the state's PY 2013 Agricultural Outreach Plan (AOP) to the DOL. The AOP, an annual deliverable, is also a required element in the 2012-2016 State Integrated Workforce Plan. As such, upon approval of the AOP, the plan will be considered modified vis-à-vis the AOP approval letter issued by DOL.