

Olympic Workforce Development Council

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Programs

(Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap counties)

July 1, 2000 to April 30, 2015

People Served	12,354 (Note: Represents WIA registered only)
Adults (22 to 55+) Served	2,974
Youth (16 through 21) Served	1,717
Dislocated Workers	2,875
Special Grants to include Recovery Act and National Emergency Grants	4,788
Adult Entered Employments	2,323 or 81% (2,323 placed/2,859 exited)
Dislocated Worker Entered Employments	2,268 or 82% (2,268 placed/2,772 exited)
Youth Positive Exits (entered employments, Apprenticeships, entered post-secondary Returned to school, etc.)	1,168 or 75% (1,168/1,558 exited)

Summer Youth Program

In 2009, the OWDC received a grant for \$967,622 to serve 221 youth in summer jobs. This funding came from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Youth worked in various job sites like: Olympic College, Poulsbo Marine Center, American Red Cross, Sol Duc Salmon Hatchery, Port Angeles Marine Center and the Olympic National Park. Youth not only received work skill training during this experience but were also given some academic skills remediation training where needed.

Olympic Consortium Success Stories 2014

From Unemployment to Nursing Assistant within Walking Distance

Nia, single parent of two teenagers, was unemployed, receiving food stamps and living in an apartment rented by friends and family. She came to the Bremerton WorkSource referred by a friend who had gone through the Adult program herself. After working on career plans with Frank, her job counselor, Nia chose to become a Certified Nursing Aide. The WorkSource Adult program paid for the tuition, fees, books, required program equipment and uniforms for the CNA program at Olympic College. WorkSource also provided support services in the form of transportation assistance gas, and some personal hygiene items.

Soon after completing training and obtaining her CNA license, Nia was hired at Island Health and Rehabilitation on Bainbridge Island at the starting wage of \$13.50 per hour. Over the course of several months she gained valuable work experience but also lots of miles commuting to and from work. So, she then used her new found job search skills to find a job closer to home and save money. Now Nia's commute is only a few minutes each way. She's very happy with her employer and the new career path she's on.

Pizza Delivery to King of the Road

John, a young father of two, came into the Bremerton WorkSource looking for a better way of supporting his family than working part-time as a pizza delivery driver. His wife who also had a minimum wage job was able to help with expenses while they both still earned food stamps.

John's father referred him to WorkSource where a career plan was developed by John and Frank, his job counselor. The key part of John's plan was to complete truck driving school and get his commercial driver's license. The WorkSource Adult program helped him by paying part of the tuition. Upon successful completion of training he not only got his commercial driver's license but also his Hazardous Materials endorsement. Within weeks, John was hired by Watkins Shepard as a long haul truck driver earning approximately \$3,000 a month. Food stamps became a thing of the past.

From Eritrea to Bremerton

Rahwa is a political refugee from Eritrea a county located on the Horn of Africa. She is a single parent of a young boy and was living in an emergency homeless shelter. English is her second language. In the last 8 years she has traveled from Eritrea to Sudan to South Africa to Brazil to Bolivia to Mexico and finally to the United States. When she came to the Bremerton WorkSource she was working part time as a dishwasher at a senior housing agency and receiving food stamps.

She came to the WorkSource looking for a job opportunity in a demand occupation. She discovered that Certified Nursing Assistant was a field that was in demand and that she thought she was well suited for. The WorkSource Adult program paid her CNA tuition, fees and supplies for the program at Care Plus Health and Training Inc. in Port Orchard. WorkSource also assisted Rahwa with her transportation needs by providing her a Kitsap Transit bus passes. With some extra help from the classroom instructor, Rawha gained the understanding of the medical terminology and passed the state CNA test. She soon found a full-time CNA position at a skilled care facility in Bremerton earning \$10.50 an hour.

From Port Angeles to the Oil Fields of North Dakota

Ted had been out of work for almost a year before he contacted the Port Angeles WorkSource Adult program. Because he was 51 years old at the time, he thought that his age was keeping him from getting jobs locally. So, his brother in North Dakota convinced him that there were plenty of jobs for someone who had their commercial truck driving license. Ted asked WorkSource for help in paying for truck driving training along with tuition help from the Peninsula College Worker Retraining program. Upon finishing training he sold all of the family belongings in order to have enough money to travel to North Dakota.

During his job search, he kept in touch with his WorkSource job counselor who kept encouraging Ted and offering job hunting tips. After about three months, Ted found a job driving an oil tanker in Dickinson, ND. He is now on call 24/7 and sleeps in a little camper at the job site. Due to the on-call requirement and that he remain available at the work site, his last paycheck was \$15,455 for the month.

Property Manager Learns How to Sell Self

Glenn who recently moved to Port Orchard from out-of-state had over twenty years of high-level property management experience. He put away a good amount of money and had planned to move here to spend time with family and relax. However, Glenn became one of the victims in the Target store identity theft crime. All of his savings were stolen and it looked like it would be years before he'd get the money back. Glenn came to the South Kitsap WorkSource Affiliate without a resume and little knowledge of how to sell himself despite the many years of work experience.

After receiving help with his resume, classes in how to search for a job, and how to market yourself, Glenn had also found a friendly place where he could go when he was frustrated. WorkSource also helped him with transportation costs while he looked for work. After several interviews Glenn was hired by an apartment company in Olympia as a property manager. He receives \$2,600 a month in salary, free rent (\$900/month), free utilities (\$150/month) and after 90 days, he gets medical insurance with no cost out-of-pocket, and dental/vision for \$25/month. If he completes collections at 95% in a month, he'll receive a 2% commission. They gave him \$300 to help with relocation. Total monthly compensation equals \$3,650/month.