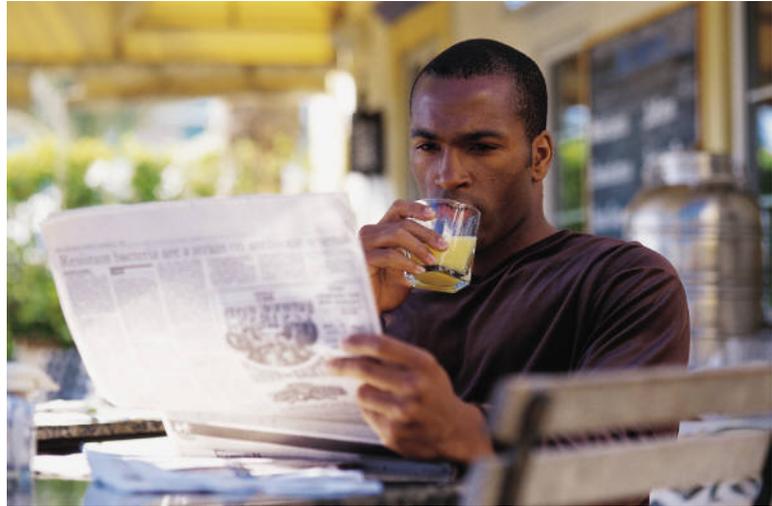


REACHING OUT TO LONG-TERM UI CLAIMANTS AND EXHAUSTEES

The longer individuals remain unattached to the labor market, the more rusty their skills become and the more marginalized they perceive themselves to be.

The key lesson is that this population is best served as early in their tenure on UI as possible.



The duration of Washington's current economic downturn and significant restructuring of our economy has created a larger body of dislocated workers than in recessions past, and many face severe hurdles to rejoining the labor force, including age discrimination, lack of necessary skills, and a bias against long-term claimants. The workforce system will need to continue to focus efforts upon the special needs of this population in order to provide specialized services or risk facing a different crisis as their situation deteriorates resulting in some becoming homeless, seeking out public assistance, and experiencing other downside effects of having no income and no marketable skills.

The Spokane Area Workforce Development Council developed a strategy for serving long-term UI claimants including outreach, reengagement, assessment, and training. Recognizing the many diverse needs of this population, WorkSource Spokane created a variety of strategies to reengage long-term claimants, including specialized workshops, OJT opportunities and vocational education options. Additionally, two staff members have been assigned as Long-Term Claimant Specialists, providing services to those likely to become long-term claimants, as well as those who have already exhausted their benefits with specific services to include long-term engagement (case management).

The primary partners included the Employment Security Department, WorkSource Center-Career Path Services, Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest, and the NEW ESD 101.