

- **Community Jobs serves approximately 3,000 parents each year and more than 25,000 to date.**
- **On average, 66 percent of Community Jobs participants successfully obtain unsubsidized employment at the completion of the program.**

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For more information about the WorkFirst program, visit www.workfirst.wa.gov

What is the Community Jobs (CJ) Program?

Community Jobs is a full-time (40 hours per week) WorkFirst activity that provides parents who have multiple barriers, paid temporary employment.

Since 1998, WorkFirst parents have been able to benefit from Community Jobs in every county in Washington. Parents who enroll in this program have been able to gain valuable work experience, self-confidence, marketable skills, and an avenue to permanent unsubsidized employment.

Who is Community Jobs appropriate for?

Community Jobs parents have an average of eight barriers to employment not including transportation and child care, such as: lack of work experience, lack of a high school diploma or GED, being a victim of domestic violence, identified mental health issues that warrant further assessment or treatment, alcohol or drug treatment, or limited English language skills, etc. This a great program for parents who need time to stabilize their lives while preparing to go to work.

Community Jobs is administered statewide by the Department of Commerce through contracts with 17 community-based organizations. Contractors develop temporary paid positions where parents work 20 hours per week at nonprofit organizations and public agencies. These work assignments provide opportunities for parents to gain job skills in a structured, supervised work environment. For many parents co-enrollment in an education activity for a minimum of 10 hours per week is required in addition to their 20 hours per week of paid work experience. For some parents, work hours can be adjusted up to 30 hours per week if they do not need education or educational options are not available. The Community Jobs contractors also provide case management to ensure parents gain access to services that will lead to unsubsidized employment.

What is Career Jump?

Career Jump is an expansion of Community Jobs and includes private sector placement options to support the career interests of WorkFirst parents. Career Jump builds upon the proven success of Community Jobs and offers more worksite opportunities for the hard-to-employ population. The design of the program includes a commitment from the employer to hire the parent after a short enrollment, built-in career ladder tracks, higher wages, benefits, and focused training and retention services, as well as the opportunity for skill development and growth in a work setting.