

- The CE Foundation helps DSHS staff identify issues that may impact a parent's ability to participate in WorkFirst.
- The CE moves parents more quickly into work activities.

The Comprehensive Evaluation (CE) is conducted by a **Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)** WorkFirst program specialist. The CE gathers family information and circumstances that can impact a parent's participation and contribute to the development of an employment plan. Parents who are pregnant or have issues such as family violence or substance abuse are referred to a social worker for an assessment to determine appropriate activities.

What are the primary objectives of the Comprehensive Evaluation?

WorkFirst staff use the CE to engage parents in the most appropriate activities to move them quickly toward employment and self-sufficiency. The primary objectives of the CE are to:

- Increase parents' involvement in developing their plan for participating in WorkFirst, resulting in more parent buy-in and better results.
- Gather better information about parents' skills and abilities and more quickly place them in an appropriate activity.
- Clarify program criteria so staff can help parents make objective decisions about what activities are appropriate.
- Increase consistency in how the WorkFirst program operates across the state.

Based on information gathered staff will work with the parent to complete an Employment Plan.

How is the best employment plan determined?

In order to determine the best employment plan, active participation by the parent is essential. The CE is designated both as an engagement tool and the vehicle to move parents quickly to the most appropriate WorkFirst activity. The parent's involvement in the decision making process helps ensure the parent's success.

In addition, it is imperative that WorkFirst staff and partners gather and share information that best supports each family's movement to self-sufficiency. As we learn more about WorkFirst families we can make better informed choices about their participation and develop an employment plan that leads to self-sufficiency.

Developing employment plans that include successive and progressive steps helps lead parents to self-sufficiency. For the majority of parents, job search continues to be the most appropriate pathway that leads directly to employment. For other parents, the CE leads to employment through training or supported work programs and also identifies areas in which the parent may need additional support. In some instances, parents receive services to help resolve issues while participating in work related activities.

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