

- As of December 2008, 55,994 families were receiving WorkFirst – 12.2 percent more than receiving WorkFirst in December 2007. Of these cases, 34,315 were adult cases, subject to federal participation requirements.

WorkFirst is Washington State's welfare reform program designed to help low-income families find jobs, get better jobs and build a better life for their children.

## What supports are available to WorkFirst families?

In addition to the services that WorkFirst provides to help parents prepare for and obtain work, they may also qualify to receive:

**Working Connections Child Care:** Subsidies to pay for child care needed to work or participate in WorkFirst activities.

**Medicaid:** Medical coverage for WorkFirst families, disabled adults and seniors, and children in low-income families.

**Basic Food:** Help paying for food based on family's size, income, and expenses.

**Child Support:** Help to establish paternity and collect child support and medical support from the non-custodial parent.

**Emergency cash assistance:** Immediate help to prevent eviction and utility shut-off or to secure housing.

**Support services:** Help paying for expenses related to work, such as transportation or clothing.

**Education and Training:** Basic Skills and ESL along with some specialized short-term training opportunities to increase job skills and/or obtain higher than entry-level wages, available through community and technical colleges.

**Tuition assistance:** To cover the costs of tuition, books and fees for parents working part-time so they can get more skills and earn higher wages.

## What supports can families receive once they go to work and leave WorkFirst?

Once a parent has gone to work and no longer needs cash assistance, they may still qualify for many of the same supports they received while on the WorkFirst Program (Working Connections Child Care, Medicaid, Basic Food, etc.). In addition, families may also qualify for the **Career Services Program**, which provides employment services and cash benefits to low-income working adults working 30 hours per week. For more on this exciting program, [link](#) here.

Note: As wages increase over time, these supports gradually drop away, until parents can support their families without further help.

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For more information about the WorkFirst program, visit [www.workfirst.wa.gov](http://www.workfirst.wa.gov)

