

Recognizing the Efforts of WorkFirst Staff, Partners and and Contractors!

Washington initiated the WorkFirst program in August, 1997 to help low-income parents become self-sufficient. Since that time, many changes have been made to improve the program and provide more effective and efficient services. This past year has been no exception!

There have been few other times in the history of the program that so many changes have been implemented in so short a time. Here is just a sample of what you have accomplished in the last 12 months:

- Staff, Partners and Contractors attended training to prepare for implementing the Governor's WorkFirst Reforms
- Local Areas implemented the Comprehensive Evaluation Process
- Non-Compliance Sanctions were implemented
- LPAs worked together to identify ways to maximize participation to help families fully engage in the program and go to work
- Staff, Partners and Contractors completed a review of 7 Captivate presentations to prepare for changes to WorkFirst as a result of the Deficit Reduction Act
- Three new CTED work programs have been implemented
- 100% review of the caseload is currently under way

We recognize the tremendous efforts of every staff person across the partnership to implement the many changes to WorkFirst. As always, you have implemented these changes while continuing to provide outstanding service to families in need. It is through your collective work that WorkFirst continues to be a successful program where families in transition can receive the services and support to help them move forward with their lives.

Monday, June 18, 2007, Actual Hours/Work Verification training begin rolling out across the state. This training is mandatory for WorkFirst Staff at:

- CTED
- DSHS CSOs
- DSHS Contractors
- ESD
- RIA

This phase of training is perhaps the most critical. Sessions will be provided in classrooms and will cover each partner's responsibility for supervising, documenting, tracking, and verifying actual hours of WorkFirst participation. If you have not yet registered for this training, please register now at:

<http://www.workfirst.wa.gov/forward/default.asp>

Thank you for all you do each day!