



# YouthWorks: A state and community partnership

*Date: 9/29/15  
Doc #: FS-0030-A*

**YouthWorks emphasizes career readiness and involves community-based organizations as well as school districts to reach youths no longer in school.**

**Uses \$1.9 million in federal discretionary funding to increase graduation rates and job and career success for youths.**

YouthWorks is a partnership of the Governor's Office, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, Workforce Development Councils (WDCs), Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and the Employment Security Department.

All partners have agreed to use \$1.9 million in federal discretionary funding to increase graduation rates and job and career success for youths. In each community, the local Workforce Development Council works with one or more school districts or dropout re-engagement programs to recruit and organize employers and coordinate student participation.

YouthWorks creates permanent and growing capacity to connect youths with mentors, work experience and work-based learning. YouthWorks emphasizes career readiness and involves community-based organizations as well as school districts to reach youths no longer in school.

YouthWorks systematically builds partnerships between WDCs, school districts and out-of-school dropout re-engagement programs, strengthening local employer connections and creating more mentors, student internships, teacher externships and other work-based learning opportunities.

Flexible YouthWorks funds allow WDCs, schools, and programs for out-of-school youths to coordinate existing funding sources to give youths statewide a better chance at successful careers, and employers statewide a more educated and skilled workforce.

## YouthWorks goals

- Permanently increase work-based learning by leveraging existing state and community resources.
- Position Washington as a leader in developing youths and a skilled workforce.
- Capture promising best practices to share with program operators and policymakers.
- Meet or exceed quarterly goals for the number of students with business mentors, graduation coaches, employer internships, other work-based learning opportunities, and career pathways identified.

## Success

As of May, 2015, WDSI's [AmeriCorps Youth Initiative](#) has assisted 2097 disadvantaged youths to do better in school, graduate and move into careers.

## Contacts

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