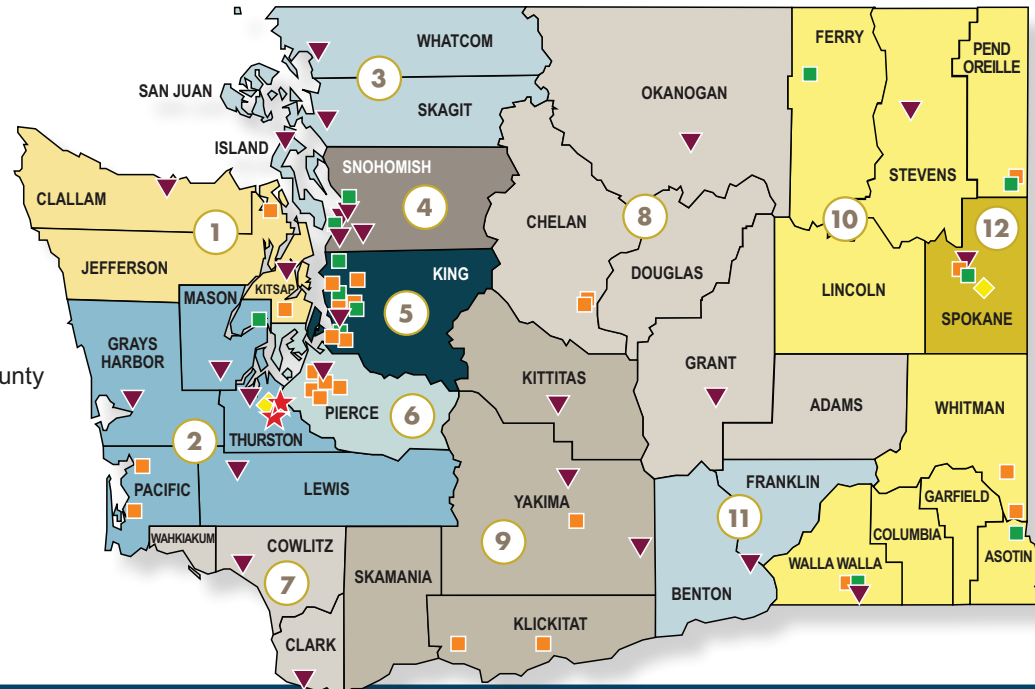


Our partnership

WorkSource Centers and Affiliates

- 1 Numbers represent Washington workforce development areas (WDAs)
- WorkSource center = 27
- WorkSource affiliate = 30
- WorkSource Connections = 34
- Central headquarters Thurston County
- Call center = 2



2020 Legislative Priorities

The Employment Security Department (ESD) administers the state's unemployment insurance (UI) program, collecting UI taxes from Washington employers and providing UI benefits to workers. ESD serves as a main partner in the state's workforce development system in collaboration with staff at WorkSource locations around the state to help connect employers and job-seekers.

In addition, ESD is currently implementing the new Paid Family and Medical Leave Act, and is implementing the state long-term care program in conjunction with the Department of Social and Health Services, the Health Care Authority, and the Office of the State Actuary. ESD also provides labor market and wage data to Washington's employers and policymakers to help them make informed, data-driven decisions.



Suzi LeVine, Commissioner

Employment Security Commissioner

Suzan "Suzi" LeVine was appointed by Governor Inslee as Commissioner for the Employment Security Department (ESD) in July 2018. At a time when society is experiencing massive technological and demographic shifts, she brings relevant leadership experience and expertise from the public, private, and non-profit sectors to help people achieve lifelong career readiness. Commissioner LeVine was recently appointed to the National Association of State Workforce Agencies Board of Directors to represent Region X.



Nick Streuli, Legislative & Executive Operations Manager

Legislative & Executive Operations Director

Nick Streuli has been the Legislative & Executive Operations Director for ESD since 2016.

Nick works with the Legislature on unemployment insurance, workforce development, Paid Family and Medical Leave, and Long-Term Care Act issues. He provides technical assistance to members and stakeholders on legislation, reviews the impact and effectiveness of strategies in current state laws, and pursues legislation on behalf of ESD.

Contact:
360-485-5175 | nstreuli@esd.wa.gov





Agency Request Bills

Paid Family and Medical Leave Technical Corrections

This bill makes technical corrections to several sections of RCW 50A, the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act (PFML), such as:

- Defining “casual labor” (such as occasional babysitting) and exempting it from PFML.
- Clarifying that if employees receive supplemental benefits such as paid sick leave from their employers, ESD will not reduce the amount of their PFML benefits.
- Adding language to prevent employees from receiving PFML benefits while receiving unemployment insurance or industrial insurance.
- Clarifying that businesses – in addition to people – can file PFML appeals.

Relief of Benefit Charges

RCW 50.29.021 contains a list of several situations in which an employer can ask the Employment Security Department (ESD) to grant “relief of benefit charges.” When ESD grants the request, the employee’s unemployment insurance (UI) benefits don’t count against the employer’s UI experience rating account, so the employer’s tax rate doesn’t increase.

The purpose of this bill is to add an additional item to the list of situations under which an employer can make this request. Specifically, the bill allows an employer to ask ESD for relief of benefit charges when an employee was discharged because of inability to satisfy a job prerequisite required by law or administrative rule.

Decision Packages

Employment Services Administrative Account Funding Adjustment

ESD is requesting a technical adjustment to our appropriation authority from the Employment Services Administrative Account for the 2019-21 biennium.

This account is used to cover the cost of administering unemployment insurance and workforce development programs in areas where federal funding is insufficient.

Paid Family and Medical Leave Funding Adjustment

ESD is requesting an expenditure authority adjustment to adequately finish implementing the Paid Family and Medical Leave program and to support program operations.

Headquarters Remodel – Capital Budget Request

ESD’s headquarters building on the Capitol Campus was built in 1961 and has never had a major renovation. Unfortunately, all of its major systems are now obsolete, and the building does not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. ESD completed an audit in 2017 and a predesign in 2018. We are submitting a Capital Budget request for funding to complete the design of the new systems and preconstruction work so that improvements can begin in late 2021.

