About Employment Security Department (ESD)

When life events disrupt employment, ESD provides economic security to the people of Washington in every corner of the state. We help people find jobs, bridge gaps in employment, provide paid family and medical leave, support the state’s long-term care fund and more.

Helping people find jobs. As a main partner in the state’s workforce development system, we collaborate with WorkSource to connect employees and job seekers. Learn more on our website.

Bridging gaps in employment. We administer the state’s Unemployment Insurance program by collecting taxes from employers and providing benefits to workers. Learn more on our website.

Providing paid family and medical leave. We administer the state’s Paid Leave program. Our team strives to provide an easily accessible benefit that helps employers and employees maintain economic stability and peace of mind in challenging times. Learn more on our Paid Leave website.

Supporting the state’s long-term care fund. ESD is responsible for collecting premiums, offering an elective coverage option, determining vesting status and processing exemption applications for the WA Cares Fund. Our partner agencies include the Department of Social and Health Services, Health Care Authority and the State Actuary. Learn more on the WA Cares website.
SB 5193 and
fixes inaccurate cross-references in RCW 50.29.025 and 50.29.070 that resulted
overall reduction in federal funds of $0). The alignment represents an
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in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
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funds to replace the American Rescue Act funds the federal government
did not distribute to states (net increase $0). The alignment represents an
overall reduction in federal funds of $36.4 million.

Federal funds adjustment
ESD is required to annually update its federal funds. This decision package aligns overall spending to expected revenues and requests that $31.3 million in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery funds to replace the American Rescue Act funds the federal government did not distribute to states (net increase $0). The alignment represents an overall reduction in federal funds of $36.4 million.

Decision Packages

FTE staffing adjustment
In response to SB 5193 and recommendations from the Paid Family Medical Leave Advisory Committee, the Employment Security Department (ESD) is requesting an adjustment of its full time equivalent (FTE) authority to align with expected caseloads to ensure customers are served timely. No additional funding is requested for FTEs in PFML. Additional funding of $4.7 million is requested for UI staffing.

Statewide WorkSource administration system replacement
ESD is requesting additional appropriation authority to replace the existing WorkSource Integrated Technology (WIT) contract. The WIT platform currently serves as the state’s case management and labor exchange for employers and job seekers. The replacement system will support the statewide workforce administration to ensure adoption of the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) integrated service delivery model and program performance reporting requirements for the state’s Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and other federal grants. Authority is requested for $4.8 million from the Employment Services Administrative Account.

EcSa - Economic Security for All
The Economic Security for All (EcSA) program supports families in moving from poverty to economic self-sufficiency. Funding in the amount of $6.2 million would help an additional 1,850 families achieve self-sufficiency. The pandemic has proven to disproportionally affect persons of color, not only in terms of health impact and rates of death, but also through economic impact. This expansion is an important step in reducing poverty and barriers for persons of color in Washington state.

Agency Request Bills
Paid Family and Medical Leave Technical Corrections
ESD submitted two agency request bills to the Governor’s Office that are noncontroversial in nature, technical, and have no fiscal impact.
- Cross-References Bill
- PFML Data-Sharing Bill

Cross-References Bill fixes inaccurate cross-references in RCW 50.29.025 and 50.29.070 that resulted from SB 5061’s passage during the 2021 legislative session.

PFML Data-sharing bill ensures that the program’s data-sharing agreements and privacy laws are aligned with Long Term Services and Supports.

Our partnership
WorkSource Centers and Affiliates

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

Employment Security Commissioner
Cami Feek | Commissioner

Cami Feek was appointed commissioner for the Employment Security Department (ESD) by Gov. Jay Inslee in June 2021. Prior to that, she served as ESD’s acting commissioner, deputy commissioner and chief operating officer. Cami understands that achievement comes from cooperation and a shared vision. She translates these principles to her professional leadership, focusing her career on strategic systems design and innovative and effective operations. She knows first-hand that good government is key to bringing about quality services that Washingtonians deserve and expect.