

Washington State Employment Security Department

2023 Centennial Accord information

Summary

The Employment Security Department manages Unemployment Insurance, Paid Family and Medical Leave, and co-manages the state's long-term care program called WA Cares. The department analyzes and disseminates labor market information and is an active partner in the statewide career service known as WorkSource. Tribal governments elect to participate in these various services and we often partner with Tribal Nations to deliver workforce solutions.

Highlights

We support career development opportunities through [WorkSource](#), which includes assistance to job seekers and recruitment and retention services for employers. Here are some examples:

- Employment Security employs a dedicated Tribal veterans' representative in partnership with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. Through this partnership, Yakama Tribal Radio and the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) promoted a job fair at WorkSource in June that resulted in 144 Yakama Nation members applying for and filling the 40 available positions.
- WorkSource Central Basin and WorkSource Wenatchee Valley conducted job and resource fairs with the Colville Tribal Government Center. At the July event, 50% of employer and community resource participants were Tribal entities.

We partner in the state's strategy to engage young people in employment pathways, called [Career Connect Washington](#). Programs working with Tribal Nations include:

- San Juan Conservation District is developing a program called The Salish Sea Guardians. This combines credits through Northwest Indian College/Coast Salish Institute with paid internships in natural resources management and management planning to foster the next generation of Indigenous land managers.
- Northwest Maritime Center runs a Real-World Readiness program. In the most recent cohort, Northwest Maritime Center welcomed two students from area Tribes who are on track to complete their current program and move on to the next. The center seeks further Tribal partnership as this program grows.
- Western Washington University (WWU) is developing a new pathway to promote career opportunities in the green economy. WWU is collaborating with the Tribal sovereignty community of practice and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to align programs and employment pathways.

We partnered with Tribes and legislators during the 2023 legislative session to pass a bill explicitly stating that Tribes may, but are not required to, report job classification information when they submit quarterly unemployment tax reports. In 2020, the Legislature enacted a law requiring employers to include [Standard Occupational Classification](#) (SOC) code information. The data will increase the availability of labor market and job placement information to students, job seekers and economic development organizations. The original bill did not specify how this change applies to Tribal employers. As a result, there is clarity for Tribal employers in the law.

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