



Washington State Auditor's Office Performance Audit Description

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Jan M. Jutte, CPA, CGFM
Acting State Auditor

Director of State and
Performance Audit

Chuck Pfeil, CPA
(360) 902-0366

Chuck.Pfeil@sao.wa.gov

Principal Performance Auditor

Donald Krug

(360) 725-5566

Donald.Krug@sao.wa.gov

Senior Performance Auditor

Carolyn Cato

(360) 725-5551

Carolyn.Cato@sao.wa.gov

Washington State Auditor State
Auditor's Office
P.O. Box 40021
Olympia, WA
98504-0021

www.sao.wa.gov
[@WASateAuditor](https://twitter.com/WASateAuditor)

Workforce Development System: Identifying Overlap, Duplication and Fragmentation

Background

Washington promotes its economic vitality and global competitiveness by investing in a highly trained and skilled workforce. Access to skilled workers in Washington is essential to growing our economy as it drives location and investment decisions made by businesses. Last year, Washington spent more than \$1 billion in state and federal funds on workforce development activities.

Washington's workforce development system is complex and involves multiple programs that are administered by 12 state agencies. Management of the system is decentralized, with the Workforce Board providing a coordinating role. Worksource is the state's one-stop delivery system established to meet the requirements of the Federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The 68 Worksource Centers and affiliate sites across the state provide people with access to a wide range of employment services.

State programs provide training and support services to both adults and teens who are unemployed or who are employed but want to further develop their skills to improve their opportunities. Community and technical colleges and school districts are a key part of the education and training components.

The state does not provide all such development opportunities directly, however. Many services are provided by local community-based organizations. A number of programs serve specialized populations, such as disabled or disadvantaged people with significant barriers to employment. These programs are provided by state agencies or through contracted services.

Scope and objectives

Due to the complexity of the Workforce Development System, this first audit will focus on understanding the programs and their connections within the system. The results of the first audit will inform our decisions on where to focus for subsequent audits looking at specific programs in more depth. This audit will seek to answer the following questions:

1. What are Washington's workforce development programs? How are they funded and administered?
2. Is there overlap, duplication or fragmentation within the workforce development system?

Timing

We estimate audit results will be released in spring of 2015.

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