



**workforce**  
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Program launches to bring employment services into the Clark County Jail**

**Vancouver, WA (Nov. 22, 2016)** – Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW), Clark County Sheriff’s Office Reentry Program and WorkSource held a ribbon cutting on November 16 to celebrate the launch of a new program, Linking to Employment Activities Pre-release (LEAP).

The program will bring WorkSource’s employment services into the Clark County jail to help up to 100 incarcerated individuals learn the skills they need to get a job and reintegrate into the community after they are released.

Case management and training will be provided at the jail by WorkSource staff, including in-person and online workshops, resume and cover letter writing and connections to additional services, such as housing, transportation, childcare, behavioral health services and more. After release, individuals will continue to receive employment and job training services at the WorkSource center at 204 SE Stonemill Drive, Suite 215, Vancouver 98684.

By helping individuals obtain skills and jobs, the program aims to increase the number of individuals finding and maintaining employment and decrease the number of individuals who return to jail in the future. The two-year pilot program is funded through an \$800,000 grant from the Department of Labor.

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**Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW)** (formerly the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council), a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, contributes to regional economic growth by providing investments and resources to improve the skills and education of the workforce in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. WSW helps businesses find and hire the employees they need and provides people the skills, education and training to find work or advance in their careers. WSW partners with employers, community colleges and universities, labor groups, government and economic development agencies, high schools and community organizations. Learn more at [www.workforcesw.org](http://www.workforcesw.org).

**Clark County Sheriff’s Office Reentry Program** provides eligible inmates with connections to local resources while in jail. The Day Program includes classes taught by community service providers such as health insurance, food stamps, sober support, library cards, driver license restoration and more. Specialized Reentry Deputies facilitate case management and service referral. Reentry offers chemical dependency services and Jail Discharge Planners coordinate care for individuals with high acuity needs due to behavioral health, medical needs, homelessness, trauma, domestic violence, sex trafficking and more. Learn more at [www.clark.wa.gov/sheriff/corrections-branch](http://www.clark.wa.gov/sheriff/corrections-branch).

**WorkSource** is a partnership of state agencies, local service providers, colleges and community organizations that provide free employment and training services to job seekers and employers. WorkSource assists employers to recruit and screen for qualified applicants, provide wage reimbursement opportunities through On-the-Job Trainings, and supply cost-savings information on employment tax credits. WorkSource serves more than 1,000 jobseekers and 200 businesses each month. For more information, visit [www.worksourcewa.com](http://www.worksourcewa.com).

*Serving businesses, job seekers and youth in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.*