



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WorkSource offices temporarily converting to all-virtual service to address the economic and health needs of our communities

Vancouver, Wash. (March 17, 2020) – Starting Wed., March 18, 2020 WorkSource offices across Washington State (American Job Centers) will be closed for in-person customer service and will be adopting a virtual-only customer service model until the science and health guidance suggests it is safe to re-open for direct service.

“Community is at the heart of every WorkSource center across our state and improving the well-being of our customers – both individuals seeking employment opportunities and businesses seeking talent – is what drives us and all of the partners in the WorkSource centers,” shared Suzi LeVine, Commissioner for the Washington Employment Security Department. “Typically, that is a focus on customers’ economic well-being. The COVID-19 outbreak, however, demands that we also take into account our customers’ physical well-being. Therefore, this decision to move to an all-virtual service delivery model allows us to care for and address both customers’ economic and health considerations.”

Right now, the demand for employment support services is increasing dramatically – with many people losing their jobs at the same time certain industries need to quickly ramp up their staff. In light of this, there is a profound need to rethink and retool how that economic and employment support is provided to local communities while, at the same time, considering public health.

“Over the next few days, each regional Workforce Development Board, in close partnership with Employment Security Department and other local partners, will assess and adapt their service delivery models to maximize their customers’ and staff’s health, safety and economic wellbeing in this changing landscape,” shared Kevin Perkey, Chairman of the Washington Workforce Association and Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Southwest Washington.

“We don’t know what the future may bring, but we aim to be prepared for whatever may come,” LeVine concluded.

Please stay tuned for more information on our adapted services. You can find more information about your local WorkSource office at WorkSourceWA.com.

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Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) funds community prosperity by investing in services that help individuals gain skills to find a good-paying job or advance in their careers and help companies attract, train and retain workers. Our investments strengthen the region’s businesses and contribute to a strong economy. Since 2003, we’ve invested more than \$100 million in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. Learn more at www.workforcesw.org.

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



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WorkSource is a statewide partnership of state, local and nonprofit agencies that provides an array of employment and training services to job seekers and employers in Washington. Customers access services electronically through WorkSourceWA.com or through a network of more than 60 WorkSource centers, affiliates and connection sites. Last year, WorkSource professionals helped some 170,000 workers and nearly 5,600 Washington businesses.

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

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