

Economic Security for All

January 2024

Overview

House Bill 2230 codifies the Economic Security for All (EcSA) program administered by the state Employment Security Department (ESD) in coordination with the Washington Workforce Association and other partners across the state. ESD, the state Department of Social & Health Services, and Local Workforce Development Boards collaborated on this legislation.

Economic Security for All (EcSA) is a poverty reduction program that coordinates existing services to help low-income Washingtonians reach self-sufficiency. ESD partners with Washington's 12 Local Workforce Development Boards and over 160 local community service providers to ensure customers receive all the services for which they are eligible, including workforce, education and social services.

EcSA:

- Helps individuals experiencing poverty reach self-sufficiency through jobs and careers.
- Focuses on marginalized populations and people with multiple obstacles to self-sufficiency.
- Helps participants navigate existing poverty reduction programs and regulations to make them easier to access and more effective.
- Provides financial help when needed to address gaps between programs.
- Works with businesses to support industry growth and increase quality employment opportunities through apprenticeships, retraining and certification, and training programs for job seekers.

EcSA improves lives

- EcSA participants through June 2023 are 51% people of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, far exceeding Washington's comparable population of 22%.
- In the first year of implementation, 421 people reached self-sufficiency, with a median annualized income of \$44,762.
- 85% of current participants had annual incomes below \$9,860 at their time of enrollment.
- EcSA has been highlighted as a best practice by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Employer engagement

The EcSA program was enhanced in the 2023 session to add \$2.89 million in funding to increase employer outreach to better connect job seekers with the training and opportunities to fill the quality jobs located in their communities. This is a key component to the success of EcSA.

Transparency and accountability

Built into this bill are accountability measures to ensure the program is meeting its goals to help EcSA program participants reach self-sufficiency. It also codifies multi-agency work in coordination with the [Poverty Reduction Steering Committee](#) and the [Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force](#) to measure indicators of yearly progress toward reducing poverty and income inequality and toward achieving an equitable and just economy.

Codifying EcSA into state law remains a high priority as we work together across every region of the state to build on the success of the program for job seekers and employers. EcSA has consistently garnered bipartisan support.

Find more information on EcSA in [ESD's 2023 legislative report](#).