



# Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee

## Meeting details

**Date:** Friday, July 17, 2025

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Hybrid meeting via Zoom

**Physical address:** Employment Security Department, 212 Maple Park Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

### Committee members present

- Jon DeVaney
- Michael Gempler
- Elizabeth Strater
- Michele Besso
- Rosalinda Guillen
- Edgar Franks
- Jeff Perrault

### Non-voting agency representatives

- Ignacio Marquez (WSDA)
- Uriel Iniguez (LNI)
- Juan Gamez Briceno (DOH)

### Committee members absent

- Delia Peña

### ESD presenting staff

- Joy Adams
- Vickie Carlson
- Gustavo Aviles
- Bertha J. Clayton
- Petra Meraz
- Susana Rodriguez

## Summary

### Meeting Recorded

This meeting was recorded and is available on [Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee meetings](#)

### Welcome and Agenda Review

Employment Security Department (ESD) Director, Joy Adams, welcomed everyone, reviewed the meeting agenda and asked if anyone had any questions. (See Addendum I.)

### Quorum Established

Recording timestamp **00:01:56**

Recording timestamp **00:11:22**

6 voting members were present at the time of roll call. (Quorum). Meeting minutes for the month of May were approved unanimously. Motion to accept: Mike Gempler; 2<sup>nd</sup> Michele Besso.

### Public Comment Discussion (See Addendum II.)

Recording timestamp **00:04:56**

**Prevailing Wage Surve** (Addendum III.)Recording timestamp 00:11:51

- Gustavo Aviles, Chief Analytics Officer, DATA Team, ESD

**ASWS Office Update** (Addendum IV.)Recording timestamp 00:30:08

- Bertha J. Clayton, Director, ASWS Office, ESD

**FLC** (Addendum V.)Recording timestamp 00:59:39

- Petra Meraz, Supervisor, Foreign Labor Certification Program, ASWS Office, ESD

**Compliance** (Addendum VI.)Recording timestamp 01:06:09

- Susana Rodriguez, Supervisor, Compliance Unit, ASWS Office, ESD

**Workforce Services Division Update** (Addendum VII.)Recording timestamp 01:29:55

- Alberto Isiordia, Assistant Director of Operations, Workforce Services Division, ESD

**Public Comment**Recording timestamp 01:42:54

None

**Recess until Committee Afternoon segment: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm****Chairs Vision Discussion & Possible Action** (Addendum VIII.)Recording timestamp 00:02:19**Potentially adding additional voices to the ASWS Advisory Committee**

- Joy Adams, Chair & Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity (ESPI) Division, ESD

**ASWS Committee member led discussion** (Addendum IX.)Recording timestamp 00:11:35

- ASWS Committee Members

**Good of the Order – Joy Adams**Recording timestamp 01:45:51

LNI – Vacancy in Yakima has been filled and will start August 1, 2025.

**Public Comment**Recording timestamp 01:49:05

None

**Adjourned**

Joy Adams thanked everyone for their continued active participation and for their commitment to this work, reviewed the next meeting date/time. Public meeting adjourned: 6:59 PM.

**2024 Meetings**

The next Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee meeting: Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 9:00 PM – 1:00 PM, In-person: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, **Perkins** Conference Room:

**Employment Security Department**, 212 Maple Park Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

**Addendums****ADDENDUM I.**

# Agenda Review & Roundtable Introductions



## AGENDA

Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services (ASWS) Advisory Committee  
Thursday, July 17, 2025 | 10 am – 12 pm, 5 pm – 7 pm | Zoom | 212 Maple Park Ave SE Olympia, WA 98501

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
<b>Committee Morning Segment</b>		
10:00 am	Call to Order; Welcome	Joy Adams, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD
10:10 am	Roll Call of Committee Members	Vickie Carlson, Management Analyst, ASWS Office, ESD
10:15 am	Agenda review, Meeting minute approval	Joy Adams, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity (ESPI) Division, ESD
10:20 am	Possible Action: amend Public Comment section in the Charter: adjust where Public Comment is scheduled	Joy Adams, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity (ESPI) Division, ESD
11:10 am	Prevailing Wage Survey Update	Gustavo Aviles, Chief Analytics Officer, DATA, ESD
11:20 am	ASWS Office Update	Bertha J. Clayton, Director, ASWS Office, ESD Petra Meraz, Supervisor, Foreign Labor Certification Program, ASWS Office, ESD Susana Rodriguez, Supervisor, Compliance Team, ASWS Office, ESD
11:40 am	Workforce Services Division Update	Alberto Isordia, Assistant Director of Operations, WSD, ESD
11:50 pm	Public Comment	Joy Adams, Director, ESPI Division, ESD
12:00 pm	Recess	Joy Adams, Director, ESPI Division, ESD
<b>Committee Afternoon Segment</b>		
5:00 pm	Chairs Vision Discussion & Possible Action	Joy Adams, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD
5:30 pm	ASWS Committee member led discussion of current issues surrounding the H-2A program as it pertains to H-2A domestic recruitment or compliance	ASWS Committee Members
6:30 pm	Public Comment	Joy Adams, Director, ESPI Division, ESD
6:50 pm	Good of the Order Adjournment	Joy Adams, Director, ESPI Division, ESD
7:00 pm	Next meeting: Thursday, September 18, 2025, In-Person, Maple Park, Olympia WA 9 AM – 1 PM	

## GROUND RULES

No side conversations | Phones on silent | let people speak without interruption | Respect the opinion of others | Strive for understanding | Speak your mind | Serve for common good | Assume good intent | Stay focused on task at hand and be willing to come back to the topic | Make sure everyone's heard | Look out for each other | Take care of your own comfort | Ask for what you need |

## ADDENDUM II.

## Possible Action - Public Comment



Bertha J. Clayton, ASWS Director, ESD

## ADDENDUM III.

## Prevailing Wage



Employment  
Security  
Department  
WASHINGTON STATE

Gustavo Aviles, Chief Analytics Officer, DATA, ESD

## Agricultural Wage Survey



- **2022 & 2023 Agricultural Wage Survey Results**
  - [2023 Agricultural Peak Employment Wage and Practices Employer Survey Results](#)
- **2024 Agricultural Wage Survey Status and Next Steps**

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## ASWS Office Update – *July 2025*



Bertha J. Clayton, ASWS Director, ESD

## Discontinuation of Services



Discontinuation of Services – 20 CFR 658, Subpart F, initiated from 10/1/24-7/1/25

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## Interagency Coordination



Inter-agency agreement	Agencies	Status
ESD & National Farmworker Jobs Program Grantee	ESD SMA, ESD WSD – Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA (OIC)	COMPLETE (03/2025)
Field Check Coordination	ESD-LNI-DOH-WSDA	OUT FOR SIGNATURE (07/2025)
H-2A Temporary Worker Housing Inspections, Licensing & Certification	ESD-DOH-LNI	IN DEVELOPMENT
H-2A Complaint Data Sharing Agreement (Statement of Work)	ESD-LNI	ESD SOW COMPLETE (04/2025)

## H-2A litigation & Federal rule changes



- H-2A Litigation (FUJ)
  - ESD regularly communicating with USDOL & following instructions and directives
  - May 2025: Posted prevailing wages on ESD's farmworker page.
  - June 19, 2025: New prevailing wages published. ESD will post updated prevailing wages on its webpage once language reviewed by USDOL.
- Federal rule changes
  - 6/20/25: USDOL WHD announces it is "suspending enforcement of H-2A Worker Protection Rule (2024).
  - 7/2/25: USDOL announces it will amend H-2A Worker Protection Rule (2024) and issues Notice of Proposed Rule-Making (NPRM).
    - ESD plans to provide comments.

## Farmworker deaths



- June 29, 2025: near Finley, WA
- July 8, 2025: near Grandview, WA
- Under RCW <<>>, L&I has jurisdiction to investigate work-related deaths
- ESD directs media inquiries to designated L&I Communications contact
- ESD facilitates supportive services, as needed (Mexican consulate, communication with family members, etc.)
- Upon conclusion of investigation, ESD will evaluate findings, if any, of employer non-compliance and evaluate facts for potential Discontinuation of Services

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## Update on old business



- App-based communication (Whatsapp)
- ASWS webpage status
- Written resources for employers and workers
- Compliance specialist handbook

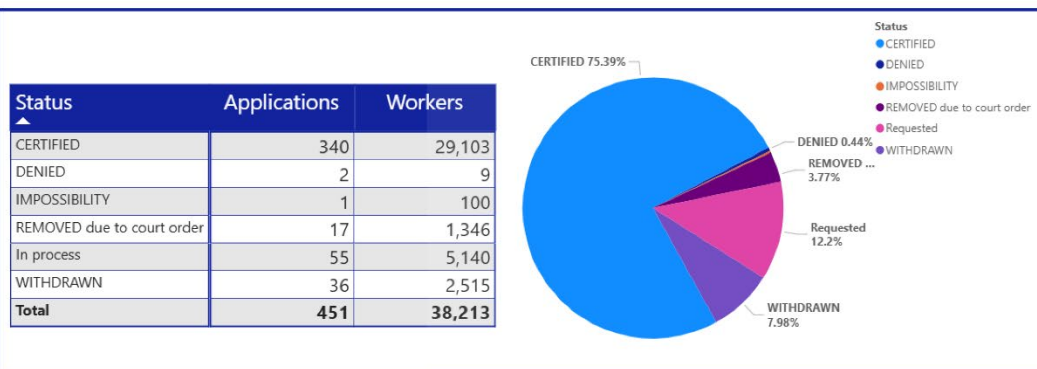
## ADDENDUM V.

## Processing and Adjudicating Foreign Labor Certification Applications



Petra Meraz, Foreign Labor Certification Program Supervisor, ASWS, ESD

## Application status report: October 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025



## Active contracts & workers



### Active Contracts & Workers As of June 30, 2025

PY24 Active Cases

0

Contracts

0

Workers

PY25 Active Cases

CERTIFIED

294

Contracts

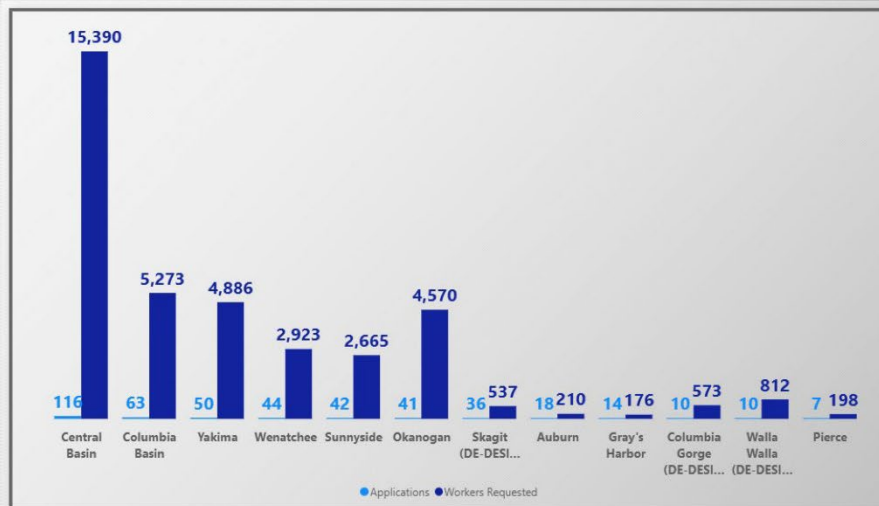
26,131

Workers

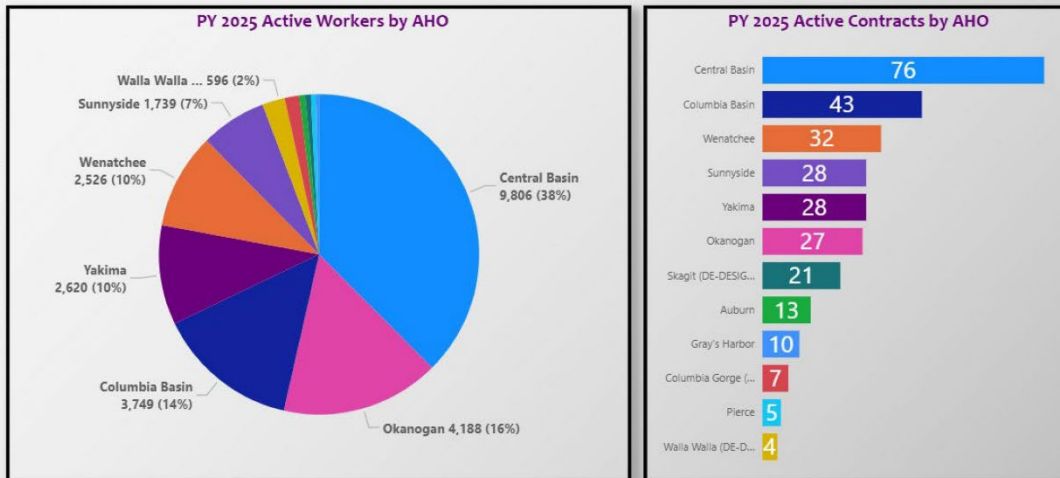
**Total Contracts 294**

**Total Workers 26,131**

## Applications/Workers Requested by AHO



## PY25 Active Workers & Contracts by AHO



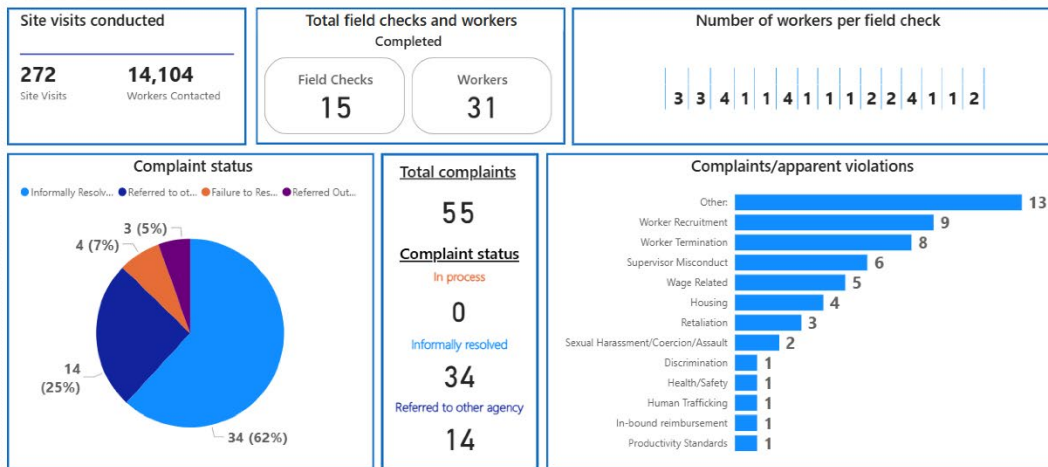
### ADDENDUM VI.

Compliance Reporting:  
Site visits (field visits), field checks &  
complaints

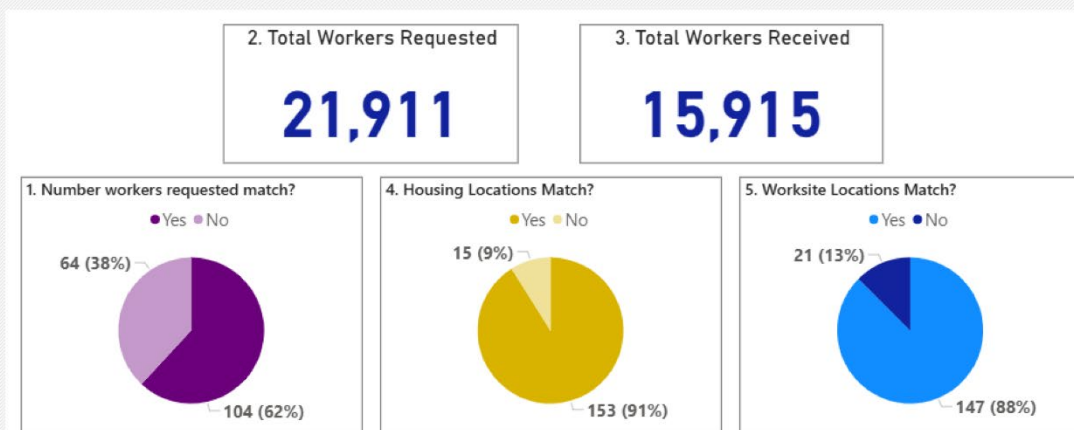


Susana Rodriguez, Compliance Team Supervisor, ASWS, ESD

# ASWS Compliance Updates



## ASWS quarterly report – 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. PY2025



## ADDENDUM VII.

## WSD Updates

July 2025



Alberto Isiordia, Assistant Director of Operations, ESD

## MSFW Outreach Performance



### Workforce Services Division (WSD)

October 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

Program Year	2023	2024
Total FTEs*	11	11
Total Outreach Days	1,623	1,470
Total Number of MSFWs Contacted	21,771	26,067

\* 9 dedicated FTEs (MSFW Staff) and 2 FTEs allocated to non-Ag. areas.

## Complaints and Apparent Violations



### Workforce Services Division (WSD)

October 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

Total Number of Complaints	29
Total Number of Apparent Violations	2
Total Referred (11 H-2A related)	24
Total Resolved (at local level)	3

## MSFW Significant Office De-designation



### ► Department of Labor Announcement

The Department of Labor **approved** ESD's request to reduce the number of MSFW significant offices from nine to six.

Offices no longer designated as MSFW significant are:

- WorkSource Columbia Gorge
- WorkSource Walla Walla
- WorkSource Skagit

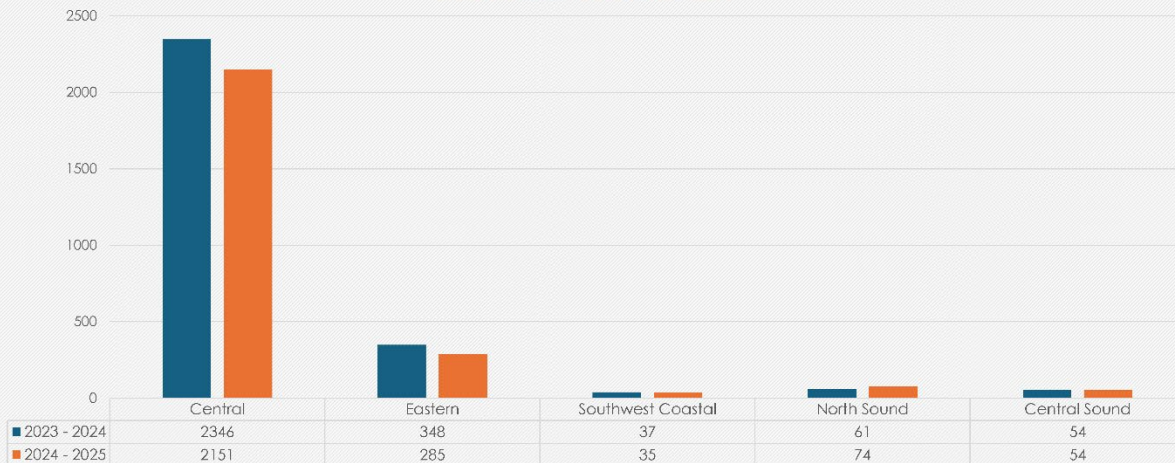
### ► Opportunity

ESD submitted this request to allow for greater **flexibility** in addressing community needs in offices/areas with smaller MSFW populations.

## MSFWs Served by Region



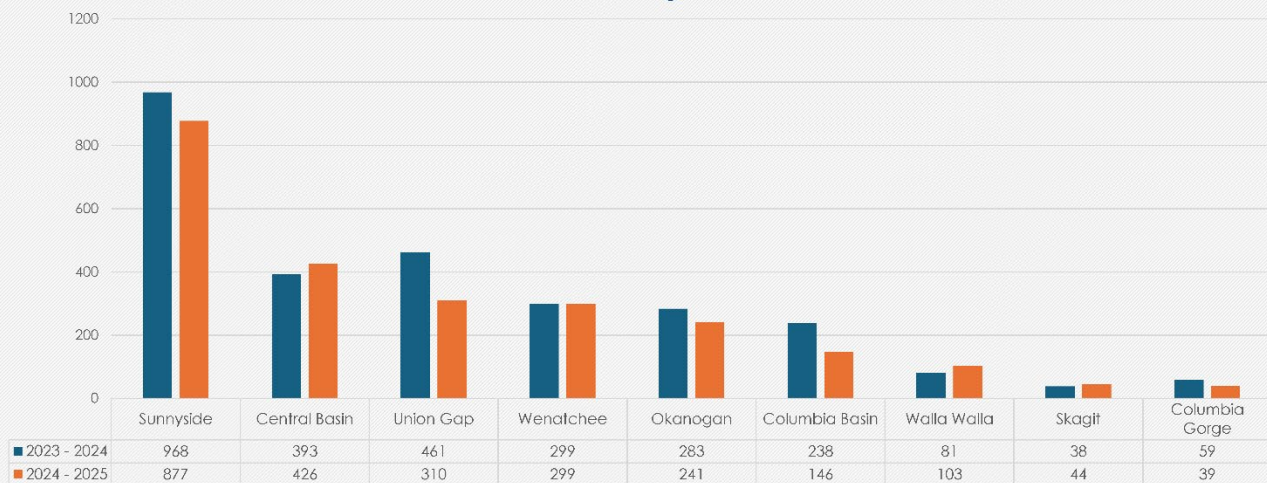
October 1 through June 30



## MSFWs Served by Significant Office VS H-2A Workers Requested



October 1 through June 30



## Ag Clearance Order Waiver Update



### ► Re-submitting Clearance Order Waiver to Department of Labor

- The state is resubmitting a request to waive subsection (b)(2) of the Wagner-Peyser Act regulation at 20 CFR 653.501, which states, "(if) the job order for the ES office incorporates offices beyond the local office commuting area, the ES Office **must suppress the employer information** in order to facilitate the orderly movement of workers within the ES."
- ESD will post for a 15-day public comment prior to formal submission to DOL.

### ► Previous Committee Recommendation &

#### Action:

- ASWS Committee's recommendation came as part of the [2020 ASWS Report \(page 24\)](#).
- DOL denied the state's waiver request on June 30, 2022 as noted in the [2022 ASWS Report \(page 3\)](#).

## Public Comment



### PUBLIC COMMENT:

If you would like to make public comment, including any suggested future agenda items, please state your name and spell it so we can capture it correctly for the minutes, as well as the organization you represent if any. Your comments are being recorded. However, if you would like your comments to be included in the meeting minutes, please submit them in writing via email to Vickie Carlson at [Vickie.Carlson@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Vickie.Carlson@esd.wa.gov). Please limit your comments to two minutes.

### COMENTARIO PUBLICO:

Si desea hacer un comentario público, incluyendo temas ó elementos de seguridad para agendas futuras, por favor indique su nombre y deletreéelo para poder capturarlo correctamente en los apuntes de la junta, también indique la organización a la que representa si hay alguna. Sus comentarios estan siendo grabados. Sin embargo, si desea que sus comentarios sean incluidos en los apuntes de la junta, por favor envíelos por escrito por correo electrónico a Vickie Carlson a [vickie.carlson@esd.wa.gov](mailto:vickie.carlson@esd.wa.gov). Por favor limite sus comentarios a dos minutos.

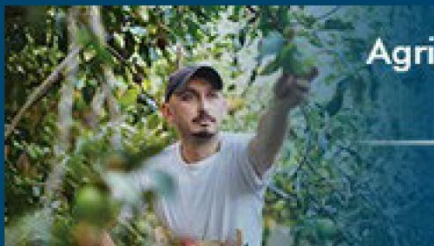


Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Employment Security Department  
WASHINGTON STATE

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Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Employment Security Department  
WASHINGTON STATE

**ASWS Advisory Committee Meeting –  
Afternoon Segment**

Thursday, July 17, 2025

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

ADDENDUM VIII.

## Chairs Vision – Discussion and possible Action

Joy Adams, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD



ADDENDUM IX.

## ASWS Committee member led Discussion



### Unguided Committee Roundtable

Current issues surrounding the H-2A program as it pertains to H-2A domestic recruitment or compliance

## Public Comment



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## Closing



- Good of the Order
- Adjournment



Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Employment Security Department  
WASHINGTON STATE

**Next In-Person ASWS Advisory Committee  
Meeting**

Thursday, September 18, 2025, Maple Park, Olympia  
WA

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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**Contact information**

Joy Adams, Director of Employment System Policy & Integrity Division [joy.adams@esd.wa.gov](mailto:joy.adams@esd.wa.gov)

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