



Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee

Meeting details

Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Physical address: Employment Security Department

212 Maple Park Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Committee members present

- Jon DeVaney
- Mike Gempler
- Michele Besso
- Rosalinda Gullien
- Edgar Franks
- Delia Peña
- Jeff Perrault

Non-voting agency representatives

- Caitlin Gates (LNI)
- Juan Gamez Briceno (DOH)
- Ignacio Marquez (WSDA)

Committee members absent

- Elizabeth Strater

ESD presenting staff

- Joy Adams
- Vickie Carlson
- Bertha J. Clayton
- Olivia Gutierrez
- Mago Cabrera
- Tim Probst
- Jenna Argot
- Alberto Isiordia

Summary

Meeting Recorded

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

Welcome and Agenda Review & Roll Call

Recording timestamp **00:01:35**

Employment Security Department (ESD) ASWS Office Director, Bertha Clayton, welcomed everyone, reviewed the meeting agenda and asked if anyone had any questions. 6 voting members were present at the time of roll call; Quorum established.

Committee Business:Recording timestamp **00:02:35****May 2026 meeting minutes:**

Motion to approve by Jon DeVaney and a 2nd from Jeff Perrault, meeting minutes unanimously approved via voice vote.

ASWS Office UpdatesRecording timestamp **00:05:41**

Bertha J. Clayton, Director, ASWS Office, ESD

ACTION: Request for ESD staff to represent data regarding requested workers differently (take out # of workers withdrawn from subtotal).

Motion to approve by Jon DeVaney and a 2nd from Rosalinda Guillen, meeting minutes unanimously approved via voice vote.

FLCRecording timestamp **00:32:18**

Olivia Gutierrez, Coordinator, Foreign Labor Certification Program, ASWS Office, ESD

ComplianceRecording timestamp **00:43:75**

Mago Cabrera, Supervisor, Compliance Unit, ASWS Office, ESD

Workforce Services UpdatesRecording timestamp **01:11:35**

Tim Probst, Employment Services Manager, WSD, ESD

Jenna Argot, Agricultural Services Coordinator, WSD, ESD

2026 ASWS Advisory Committee ReportRecording timestamp **01:31:03**

Bertha J. Clayton, Director, ASWS Office, ESD

- Committee members require more review time. Directive: email edits/suggestions, etc. to Vickie & Bertha by COB, Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Jon DeVaney:

- Address data as per action above (withdrawn applications).
- Pg 10 - Field checks vs. site visits — Explain impact of USDOL policy change re: "tightening of timeline" for performing a field check (i.e. field check must be performed when placed worker is still employed). Objective is to track agency's effectiveness. Need to demonstrate if there is decline in field check, it is due to policy change, and not ASWS operations.

Rosalinda Guillen:

- Address how federal changes (i.e. addition of dairy to H-2A) impact ESD's budget. Explain how loss of job opportunities for domestic workers impact economy. When farmworkers lose work, agencies must serve more people, more strain on community services, food banks, etc.
- Highlight MSFW program staff work

Discussion of Memo:

Issue 1: Tracking of data points

Mike Gempler:

- Committee needs to know whether domestics previously employed by employer (prior year) are applying for jobs the next year, and if not, why? Are these workers still in WA state? Where did they go?

Rosalinda Guillen:

- Include information about displacement of domestic workers by H-2A workers go.

Issue 2: Data collection by ESD

Jon DeVaney:

- Red flag when number of workers requested and arrived do not match. Explain reasons why this may happen: employer may have hired domestics. Numbers without context are not helpful. When numbers are presented in isolation --> not helpful.

Rosalinda Guillen:

- This data request originated during pandemic. Important to know where workers are. Are workers working at sites during a fire? Climate related impacts make this data more important

Issue #3: Specific Strategies for ESD to boost domestic farmworker recruitment

Rosalinda Guillen:

- Need to note how DHS immigration activity is impacting communities — people detained and removed

Christine White:

- DHS activity also impacting Central WA

Jon DeVaney:

- Need to note how committee's suggestions meet structural barriers (i.e. waiver from USDOL re: employer name suppression). Need to put in the report that committee will continue to prioritize conversations around future actions.

Mike Gempler:

- Is positive recruitment really happening? Are domestic workers declining these jobs? Are they applying for these jobs?. We need to understand why people are not applying for jobs.

Rosalinda Guillen:

- The system for applying for farm jobs has barriers to farmworkers. Hard to get data because of the barriers. Need to highlight difference in view points between labor and employers.

Christine White:

- Is positive recruitment happening? Hearing from her clients that it's not. A big issue that needs further discussion.

Public Comment

Recording timestamp **02:26:52**

Tess Perler, Salmon habitat restoration field technician, resident of Whatcom County

My name is Tess Perler. I live in Whatcom County. I have been a salmon habitat restoration field technician for about 5 years. For approximately 3 years, I worked at a non-profit that is dedicated to improving creeks and rivers so that salmon can spawn, rear, and return to spawn for years to come. I worked four 10s, 7am to 5:30 pm, so I was used to long days in the field, planting trees and removing weeds in all types of weather. I enjoy working outside and using my body to make a visible difference.

I have been looking for a job in Whatcom County since spring. I attended an event in early May where I learned about farmwork positions in the county. A farmworking position is appealing to me because they allow me to work outside and stay active, and I wouldn't have to move out of town. I am also considering building a career as a farm owner someday. I got connected with Michael Arens at WorkSource, who helped guide me through the application process. I applied to Mariposa farm. Michael suggested I visit the farm in person because the farm was difficult to get into contact with. Michael and my emails and phone calls to the farm went unanswered.

I brought the WorkSource referral form and a copy of my resume with me to the farm on May 21st. I talked with the owner - He could not complete the referral form because he wasn't sure what the start date would be. He asked if I am ok with driving large trucks to make deliveries. I said yes, I have experience driving big trucks and machinery. He asked if I would also be willing to work at the farmers market and I said yes. I gave him my resume and I told him about the relevant skills and experience I have that makes me a good fit. I gave my contact information to him so that they can contact me when they are ready to hire.

On June 3rd, after I had not heard from the farm for two weeks, Michael from WorkSource called me to follow up. He explicitly asked me, "are you able to complete all the duties listed in the job announcement? Are you comfortable working outside?" I said yes. Michael encouraged me to visit the farm again and ask about the job. On June 4th, I returned to the farm again to ask about the position. I talked with Maria - She said they are not ready to hire yet because they have previous employees they are waiting to hear from. She said she would call me by Tuesday (June 9th). I was never called.

After the visit June 4th, I called Michael to update him. Michael told me that the farm did complete a referral form. On the form, they claimed that I didn't want to work outside. That I preferred office work, and that I was not hired. This completely contradicts what I said to both of the owners and what is listed on my resume. I learned at the C2C June 4th people's participation lab that the farm had withdrawn their H2A contract.

Since then, I have applied to 5 more farmwork positions through WorkSource - 4 of 5 I haven't heard from since applying June 25th. Radar farms called me, and their associate asked me questions about my job experience and reviewed job details with me. I have been invited to interview this Friday for the position. The associate said they didn't have a copy of my resume. I explained that I attached it to my WorkSource application, so I emailed them a copy.

In summary - my experience is that the process for applying for these apparently open farmworking positions was challenging. A majority of the farms I applied to did not contact me.

I could only contact Mariposa farm when I arrived in person. I was also frustrated with the farm's dishonesty about my experience and work preference. I have worked hard outside for years and would be excited for the challenge of working on a farm and to help feed my community.

Good of the Order

Recording timestamp **02:40:26**

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

Future agenda requests and ESD action items:

- August in-person committee meeting will include facilitated "recruitment brainstorming"
- Jon: Decision package information request

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: 11:42 AM.

2025 Meetings

- The next Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee meeting: Thursday, July 23rd, 2026 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Zoom

Meeting Slides

ASWS Advisory Committee July 16, 2026



Equal opportunity statement



The Employment Security Department is an equal opportunity employer/ program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. We provide free help in many languages. People who need hearing or speech help can dial 711 for the Washington Relay.

Housekeeping



RECORDING ANNOUNCEMENT:

This meeting is being recorded. Please be advised that your image and voice will be captured and recorded during the videoconference. Your participation in this videoconference equals consent to be recorded.

ANUNCIO GRABADO:

Esta junta está siendo grabada. Por favor tenga en cuenta que su imagen y voz serán capturados y grabados durante la video-conferencia. Su participación en esta video-conferencia significa dar consentimiento de ser grabado.



Agenda

Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Agenda

Thursday, July 16, 2026 9 am – 12:00 pm | 212 Maple Park Ave SE Olympia, WA 98501 |

[Zoom](#)

TIME	TOPIC
9:00 am	Call to Order; Welcome Joy Adams, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD
9:05 am	Roll call of committee members Vickie Carlson, Management Analyst, ASWS Office, ESD
9:10 am	Agenda review, meeting minute approval May 2026 Joy Adams, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD
9:15 am	ASWS Office update Bertha J. Clayton, Director, ASWS Office, ESD Olivia Gutierrez, Coordinator, Foreign Labor Certification Program, ASWS Office, ESD Mago Cabrera, Supervisor, Compliance Team, ASWS Office, ESD
9:45 am	Workforce Services Division (WSD) update Tim Probst, Employment Services Manager, WSD, ESD Jenna Argot, Agricultural Services Coordinator, WSD, ESD
10:15 am	2026 Report Bertha J. Clayton, Director, ASWS Office, ESD
11:50 am	Public Comment Joy Adams, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD
12:00 pm	Good of the Order Adjournment Joy Adams, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD

GROUND RULES

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

Committee Business



Meeting Minutes:

- [May 21, 2026](#)



Meeting Minutes: May 21, 2026



Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee		
Meeting details Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026 Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Location: Zoom Physical address: Employment Security Department 212 Maple Park Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501		
Committee members present - Jon DeVaney - Mike Gemples - Elizabeth Santes - Michelle Besso - Rosalinda Gullien - Edgar Fausk	Non-voting agency representatives - Caitlin Gatto (LNU) - Juan Gomez Esposito (DOH) Committee members absent - Ignacio Marquez (WSDA) - Della Peña - Jeff Puzarik	Committee Business: January 2026 meeting minutes: Minutes to approve by Jon DeVaney and a 2 nd from Elizabeth Santes, meeting minutes unanimously approved via voice vote March 2026 meeting minutes: Minutes to approve by Mike Gemples and a 2 nd from Rosalinda Gullien, meeting minutes unanimously approved via voice vote ASWS Office Updates: Bertha J. Clayton, Director, ASWS Office, ESD State #7 usage needs to be updated with increased resolution. Rosalinda Gullien: Why was our FLC grant allotment lower? Rosalinda Gullien: Employee Resources: What is the balance of spending in regards to the creation of Employee vs. worker resources? Ideally, for worker representatives overall understanding, to know what resources are being used for H-2A workers, domestic workers and for employees. (WSD spoke to this question) Michelle Besso: Does DOL/WHD have a presence example? What can you tell us about what they are able to respond to and what their plan is for enforcing the law in agriculture? FLC: Peta Meix, Supervisor, Foreign Labor Certification Program, ASWS Office, ESD Compliance: Susana Rodriguez, Supervisor, Compliance Unit, ASWS Office, ESD Michelle Besso: Have there been delays in arrival times of H-2A workers? Jon DeVaney: Do you schedule site visits after all of the workers arrive, or do you go multiple times if there are going to be different cohorts of workers on the same contract? Michelle Besso: Worker recruitment complaints, could you tell us anything more about how they've been resolved? Rosalinda Gullien: Were there any human trafficking complaints, if so, what was the nature and were they resolved? Rosalinda Gullien: Is the 3% of 'housing locations not matching' due to workers working at a location not listed on the application? Additionally, Rosalinda and Susana agree that 3% is very low, but the ideal is still a 100% match. Rosalinda will continue to bring this up due to safety concerns. Fires, or other issues could arise and the workers could be in danger. Workforce Services Updates: Tim Probst, Employment Services Manager, WSD, ESD Jenna Argot, Agricultural Services Coordinator, WSD, ESD Rosalinda Gullien: Asking for the breakdown of complaints in the 'other' category.
Summary Meeting Recorded This meeting was recorded and is available on Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee meetings Welcome and Agenda Review & Roll Call Employment Security Department (ESD), ASWS Office Director, Bertha Clayton, welcomed everyone, reviewed the meeting agenda and asked if anyone had any questions. 6 voting members were present at the time of roll call. Quorum established.		Rosalinda Gullien: Clarifying that none agricultural significant offices do not have a full time outreach person. Additionally, Rosalinda requested the record to reflect that she does not like that all offices aren't staffed with full time outreach staff. Rosalinda Gullien: Is it possible for you to show the numbers of the part-time MSFW staff? Tim responded that they could get the numbers broken out per office. Updates to WorkSourceWA.com Michelle Gullien, Eastern Region Operations Manager, WSD, ESD Agency Updates or Adams, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD - Flood disaster relief (Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)) - WTT launch: June 9, 2026 (and perhaps what ag workers might expect) Food of the Order or Adams, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, ESD times agents requests and ESD action items Michelle Besso: Under what provision, has ESD decided that the wage rate information, that was NOT included in the wage survey is not public information? Michelle will follow up with Jon via email with specific questions, Jon committed follow up with LMR. Public Comment Jaccos Munoz, H-2A Data Analyst, Community to Community Development an Schaefer Lorenz, Field Organizer, Community to Community Adjourned or Adams thanked everyone for their continued active participation and for their commitment to this work, reviewed the next meeting date/time. Public meeting adjourned: 11:59 AM. 2025 Meetings - The next Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee meeting: Thursday, July 16th, 2026 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Zoom Meeting Slides



ASWS Office updates



Bertha J. Clayton, Director, ASWS Office, ESD

Federal Updates



- Foreign Labor Certification FY 26 grant application timely submitted 6/10/26.
- Prevailing wages effective 6/2/26

Prevailing wages effective June 2, 2026

Crop/Agricultural Activity and Task(s)	Description of Activity/Task(s) Provided by SWA (If Provided)	Wage ²
Apples, Gala, Harvesting		\$30.05 per bin (47" x 47" x 24.5")
Cherries, Dark-Sweet, Harvesting		\$0.27 per pound
Cherries, Harvesting		\$0.27 per pound
Pears, Harvesting		\$30.06 per bin (47" x 47" x 24.5")

Federal guidance expands H-2A program to dairy operations



New Federal Guidance Opens H-2A to Dairy Operations. Here Is What It Means.

For decades, dairy operations have largely been excluded from the H-2A program because federal agencies viewed dairy work as inherently year-round and therefore outside the scope of a visa program limited to temporary or seasonal employment. While many other agricultural sectors have increasingly relied on H-2A workers to address labor shortages, dairy producers have faced significant workforce challenges with limited access to legal foreign labor options. The new guidance represents one of the most significant expansions of H-2A access for the agricultural employers in recent memory.

ASWS Office – Operations & Improvements



- ASWS webpage on esd.wa.gov
- Technology in field work
- Change in policy re: redacted ETA-790s
 - Will no longer include first page

Source: ASWS/ESD



H-2A trends in WA



- Federal changes are impacting the number of applications filed, but not the number of workers requested.
- Better state regulatory visibility of farm labor contractors and improved inter-agency communication.



Discontinuation of Services



Discontinuation of Services – 20 CFR 658, Subpart F, initiated from October 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

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Processing and Adjudicating Foreign Labor Certification Applications



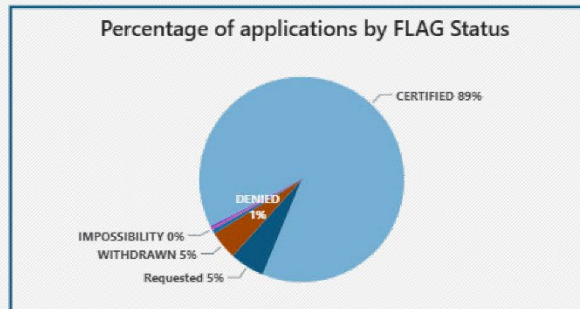
Olivia Gutierrez, Foreign Labor Certification Coordinator, ASWS Office

Summary status of applications and workers October 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026



This table summarizes the number of applications and workers requested for the current program year, organized by their status within the Foreign Labor Application Gateway [FLAG]. The accompanying pie chart illustrates the percentage of applications by FLAG status.

FLAG Status of applications submitted		
Status	Applications	Workers
CERTIFIED	276	33998
DENIED	2	3
IMPOSSIBILITY	1	30
PARTIAL Certification	1	96
Requested	17	1179
WITHDRAWN	14	3430
Total	311	38736



Certified means that OFLC has approved the application to bring workers to Washington.

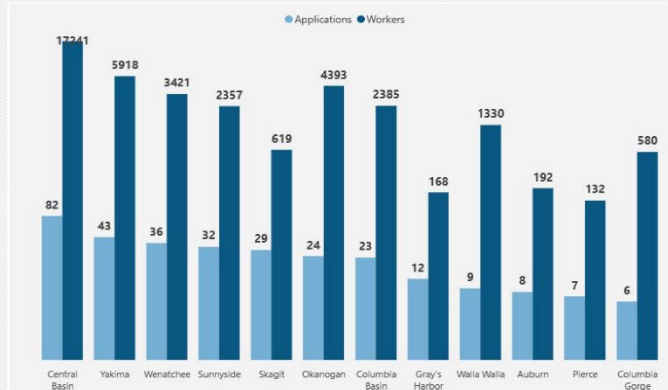
Requested means that an employer has applied to bring workers to Washington.

H-2A applications & workers requested by AHO



This shows the number of applications & the number of workers requested on those applications sorted by the Application Holding Office (AHO) for this program year, October 1, 2025, until the end of last month, June 30, 2026.

AHO	Applications	Workers
Auburn	8	192
Central Basin	82	17241
Columbia Basin	23	2385
Columbia Gorge	6	580
Gray's Harbor	12	168
Okanogan	24	4393
Pierce	7	132
Skagit	29	619
Sunnyside	32	2357
Walla Walla	9	1330
Wenatchee	36	3421
Yakima	43	5918
Total	311	38736

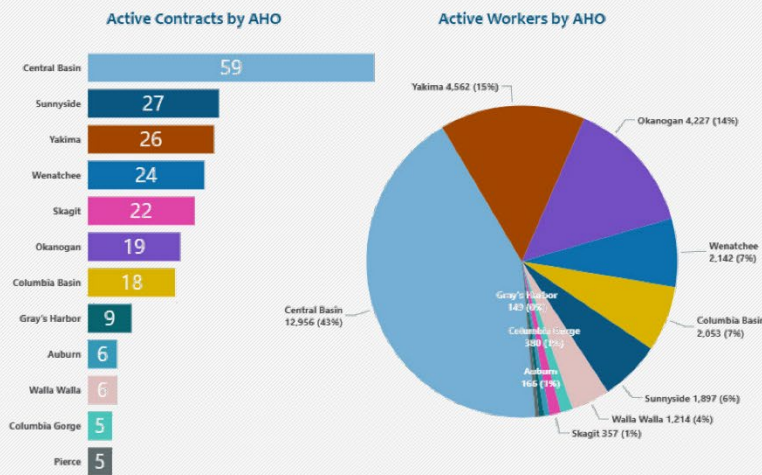


Number of active contracts & workers by AHO Started by and ended after June 30, 2026



207
Contracts

29,713
Workers



Employment Security Department
WASHINGTON STATE

Source: ASWS/ESD

Completing Site Visits, (field visits) Field Checks and Complaint Resolution

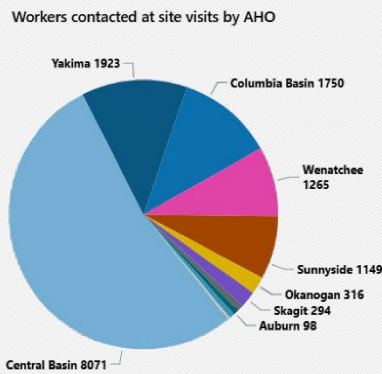
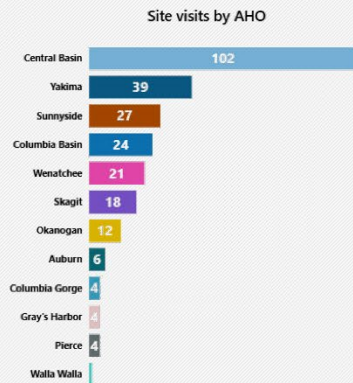
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Mago Cabrera, Compliance Unit Supervisor, ASWS Office

Site Visits October 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026



Site visits conducted and workers contacted at site visits	
303 Site Visits	15,123 Workers Contacted



Field Checks October 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026



Total field checks and placements Completed	
Placements 15	Field Checks 13

Number of placements per field check												
1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1

Complaints October 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026



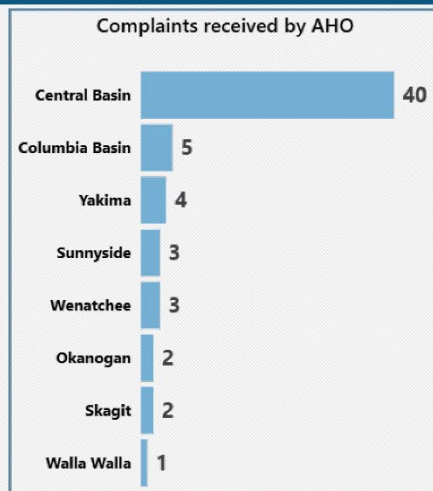
Number of allegations by complaint topic



Other - subcategories

Complaint Topic	Subcategories	Count
9. Other:	Worker Recruitment	15
9. Other:	Worker Termination	12
9. Other:	Supervisor Misconduct	6
9. Other:	Staggering	2
9. Other:	No Breaks	1
9. Other:	Productivity Standards	1
Total		37

Complaints Received by AHO October 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026



ASWS quarterly report – 3 Qtr. PY2026 April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026



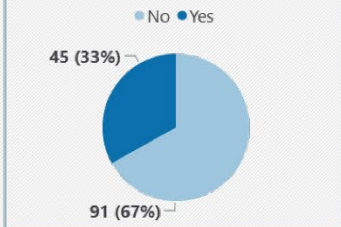
2. Total number of workers requested

31,305

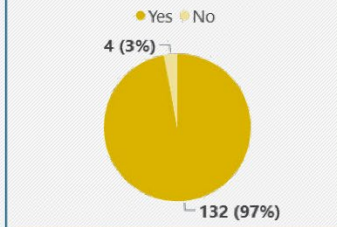
3. Total Workers Received

14,952

1. Number workers requested match?



4. Housing Locations Match?



5. Worksite Locations Match?



Source: ASWS/ESD

Workforce Service Division



**Employment
Security
Department**
WASHINGTON STATE

Tim Probst, Employment Services Manager, ESD
Jenna Argot, Agricultural Services Coordinator, ESD

MSFW Outreach Performance



Workforce Services Division (WSD)

Program Year	2024 (July 1-June 30)	2025 (July 1-May 31)
Total FTEs*	11	11
Total Outreach Days	1,400	1,306
Total Number of MSFWs Contacted	25,855	19,007

* There are six full-time outreach offices: Central Basin, Columbia Basin, Okanogan, Sunnyside, Wenatchee, and Yakima. The remaining offices conduct part-time outreach to MSFWs as part of their routine Wagner-Peyser responsibilities.

MSFW Complaints and Apparent Violations



Workforce Services Division (WSD)

July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

Total Number of Complaints	113
Total Number of Apparent Violations	7
Total Referred	104
Total Resolved	22

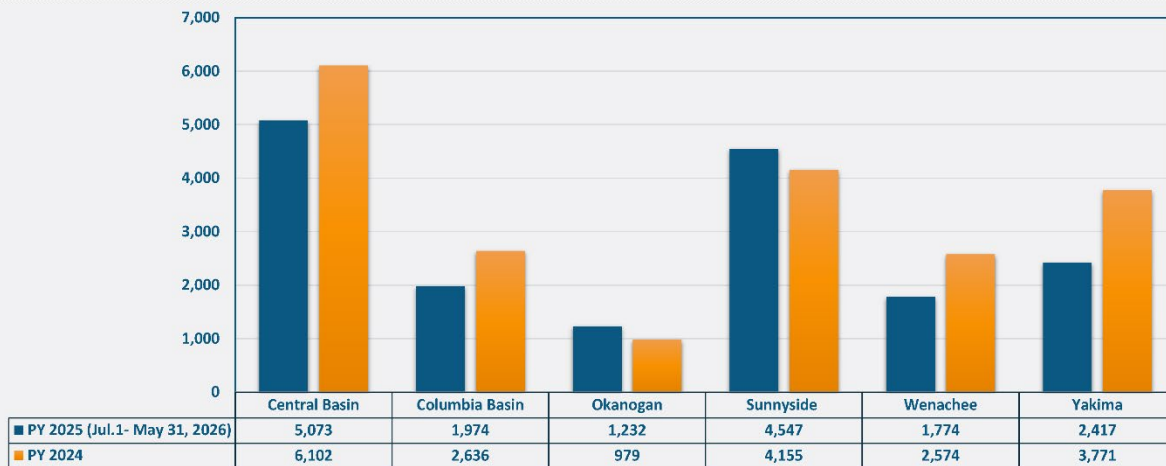
Complaints from MSFW's

**Workforce Services Division (WSD)**

July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026

Health/Safety	11
Discrimination	9
Wage Related	100
Other	8

MSFWs Contacted by Full-time Outreach Offices



MSFWs Contacted by Part-Time Outreach Offices

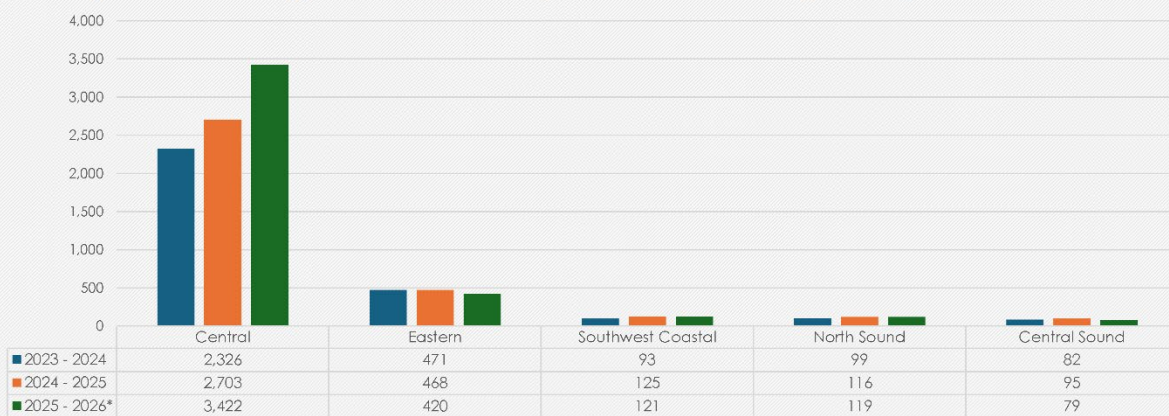


* Columbia Gorge, Skagit, and Walla Walla changed from full-time outreach in PY24 to part-time outreach in PY25.

MSFWs Served by Region



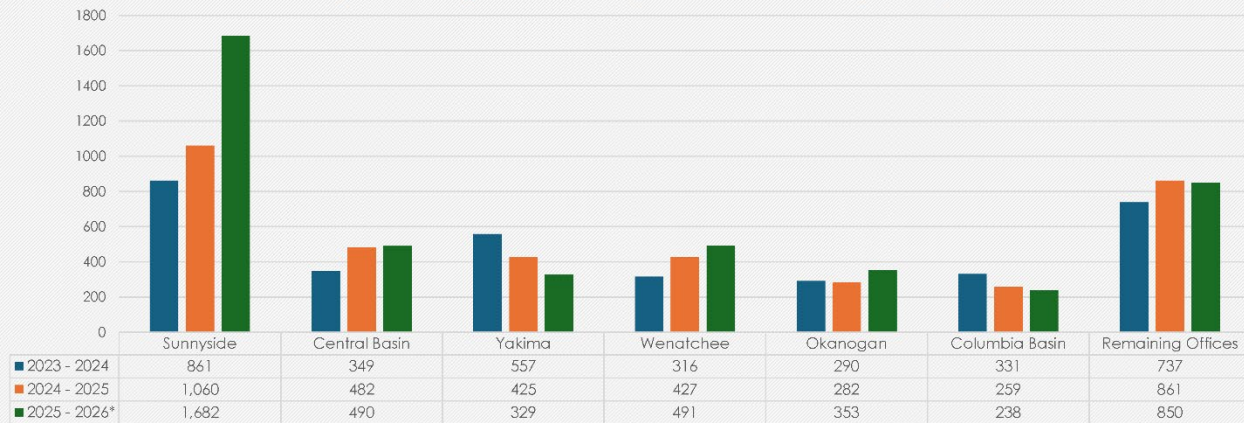
July 2023 through June 4, 2026 (* 2025-26 Shows Partial Program Year)



MSFWs Served by Full Time Outreach Offices



July 2023 through June 4, 2026 (* 2025-26 Shows Partial Program Year)



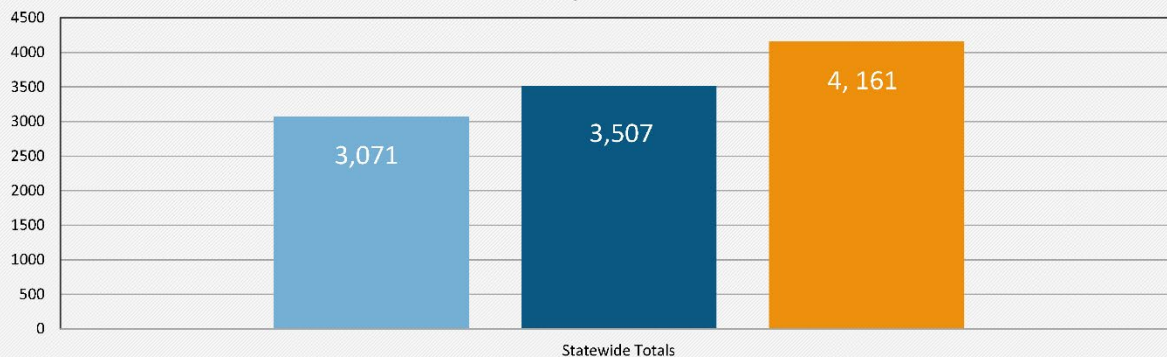
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Total MSFWs Served Statewide



MSFWs served has increased by 35.5% from PY23 to PY25, despite unstable weather, international trade, and law enforcement variables.

MSFW Served by WorkSource Offices



Statewide Totals

Employment Security Department
WASHINGTON STATE

■ PY23 ■ PY24 ■ PY25*

* 2025-26 shows partial program year, through June 4, 2026

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Highlights to Share



- Successful 2026 MSFW Summit, June 17th and 18th, Moses Lake, WA
- 105 staff and partners in attended.
- Staff and partners training topics: Clearance order process, quality referrals to job orders, MSFW complaint system, part-time outreach strategies, sexual harassment, and best practices serving MSFW customers.
- Guest speakers: ESD agency leaders, WA Labor and Industries, WA Human Rights Commission, NWJP, OIC of WA, and USDOL.

2026 ASWS Advisory Committee Legislative report review



Bertha J. Clayton, ASWS Director

Objective & timeline



Discussion of issues



Issue 1:

- Desire for ESD to track and report additional data points

Issue 2:

- ASWS's reporting of data as required by RCW 50.75.060

Issue 3:

- Specific strategies to improve placement of domestic farmworkers to agricultural jobs

ASWS quarterly report – 3 Qtr. PY2026 April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026



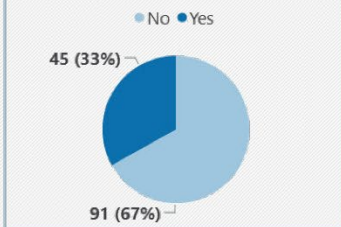
2. Total number of workers requested

31,305

3. Total Workers Received

14,952

1. Number workers requested match?



4. Housing Locations Match?



5. Worksite Locations Match?



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. Please limit your comments to two minutes.

COMENTARIO PÚBLICO:

Si desea hacer un comentario público, incluyendo temas ó elementos de sugerencia para agendas futuras, por favor indique su nombre y deletreélo para poder capturarlo correctamente en los apuntes de la junta, también indique la organización a la que representa si hay alguna. Sus comentarios están 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. Por favor limite sus comentarios a dos minutos.

Good of the Order



- Summary of Meeting
- Future Agenda Items
- Adjournment



Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Employment Security Department
WASHINGTON STATE

ASWS Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom

Contact informatio

Joy Adams, Director of Employment System Policy & Integrity Division joy.adams@esd.wa.gov

Employment Security Department • Employment System Policy & Integrity