

Economic Empowerment Services

YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women and strengthen communities. Our Economic Empowerment department is dedicated to fostering equity by assisting those furthest from opportunity, particularly low-income BIPOC residents of King County. We focus on leveraging the unique strengths of job seekers as they journey through the job search and career planning process, helping them access good paying jobs that open doors to fruitful career pathways. We supplement these services with holistic wraparound supports, including housing resources, mental health assistance, access to healthcare, unemployment insurance application assistance, public benefits navigation and planning, and specialized resource referrals.

Career Development Centers:

YWCA Career Development Centers serve as gateways to Washington State's workforce system, offering an array of complimentary and free job search resources. This includes access to current job postings, computers and phones and other technology, job search workshops, personalized resume and cover letter assistance, career counseling, peer-supported job clubs, computer skills training, and opportunities to connect with employers through hiring events and job fairs.

In addition to core services, some locations offer on-site vocational training, financial literacy education, one-on-one financial coaching, community banking services, and ABE, ESL, and GED instruction. Some locations also offer wraparound services, including housing search assistance, healthcare access, youth development services, support groups, and working wardrobe clothing closets.

WorkSource Downtown Seattle: Situated at YWCA Opportunity Place and co-located with 145 units of subsidized housing and a public health clinic, WorkSource Downtown assists over 2,000 job seekers and collaborates with 50 businesses annually. Partners include YWCA Permanent and Time-Limited Housing, the Workforce Development Council of Seattle King County, WorkSource Operator Team, WorkSource Business Services, the Fair Work Center, and Express Credit Union.

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Address: 2024 3rd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121

Contact: (206) 436-8600

Greenbridge Learning Center: Based in White Center, Greenbridge is co-located with King County Housing Authority and a King County Library. Serving public housing and Section 8 residents, immigrants, refugees, young adults, and the local community, partners include Highline College, United Way Tax Prep, Starbucks, Schools Out Washington, and the Workforce Development Council.

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Address: 9720 8th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98106

Contact: (206) 336-7000

YWCA Technology Center at Seola Gardens: Located just south of Greenbridge, Seola Gardens serves public housing and Section 8 residents and the surrounding community. Seola Gardens is open on a limited basis. Please call to make an appointment.

Address: 11215 5th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98146

Contact: (206) 995-8861

YWCA Learning Center at Firwood Circle: Located in Auburn, Firwood Circle serves public housing and Section 8 residents and other South King County residents. Firwood Circle is open on a limited basis. Please call to make an appointment.

Address: 313 37th St SE, Auburn, WA 98002

Contact: (253) 736-2300

All services provided at no charge to those who qualify. More information:
www.ywcaworks.org

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Specialized Services:

YWCA goes beyond traditional employment support, providing customized career development services to those furthest from opportunity. Services are accessible at all the above locations, as well as at additional locations in the community, including YWCA Family Village Redmond, YWCA South King County Regional Center in Renton, WorkSource Affiliate Rainier, and other venues. Our dedicated staff of career navigators, employment specialists, and instructors provide both remote and in-person career navigation options, providing the flexibility to choose the approach that best suits job seeker needs.

BankWork\$®: Eight-week industry-specific job training in the financial services sector with a strong customer service and sales focus followed by direct job placement connections to positions at 26 partner banks and credit unions. BankWork\$ provides instruction, career navigation, coaching, mentoring and job retention and career advancement support for up to one year after placement. Intake line: (253) 736-2301. For questions: (206) 457-2215

Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET): Job search assistance, job placement, and vocational training assistance for individuals receiving federal food benefits (Basic Food/SNAP), designed to help residents transition off of public benefits into self-sufficiency. Partners include King County colleges and vocational institutes, BankWork\$, and the YWCA's Homeless Employment program. South King County: (206) 678-6097; Eastside: (425) 882-1796.

ReadyWork\$®: 3-week online job readiness course combined with one-on-one job placement assistance, covering job readiness skills, 30-second commercials, revamping resumes, networking, interviewing, communication skills, online applications, Microsoft Office skills, soft skills, and more. Intake line: (206) 827-5753. For questions: (206) 457-2215

Eastside Employment Program: Career development and job training assistance for low-income adults on the Eastside, primarily residents of Bellevue and Kirkland, providing career navigation and tools and resources to support Eastside residents to secure a living wage job, build financial stability, and achieve economic empowerment. Partners include Bellevue College and Lake Washington Institute of Technology. Office: (425) 882-1796 | Mobile: (206) 773-4701

Economic Resilience Initiative: Financial education, workshops, and coaching to build economic resilience, money management skills, and financial stability. Includes 10-week "Hope & Power" class for Domestic Violence survivors and 5-week "Money Mechanics" class for anyone interested in learning about financial topics (budgeting, saving, credit, debt etc.), resources, and tools. Includes one-on-one financial coaching with a certified financial coach and 2:1 matched incentivized savings program. Hope & Power: (206) 209-2985 | Money Mechanics: (206) 791-7851 | eri@ywcaworks.org

Economic Security for All: Provides a full range of career search assistance and vocational training for low-income residents in higher-poverty zip codes, designed to reduce poverty and support residents as they embark on their careers, in pursuit of equity, dignity, and self-sufficiency. Also includes a randomized Guaranteed Basic Income pilot program, focused on domestic violence survivors. Serves both those who are below and above 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). 206-856-5875

Femme2STEM: Multiple STEM education and career opportunities for young female-identified BIPOC women and non-binary youth ages 16-24, including career exploration, college and career readiness and navigation, academic and social-emotional support, paid and unpaid internships, industry tours and panels, and mentorship support. (206) 591-3925

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Homeless Employment Project: Job search and job placement assistance for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness including a full range of individualized employment and support services needed to achieve self-sufficiency and stable housing. Seattle: (206) 436-8679. South King County: (206) 678-6097. East King County: (425) 556-1353

King County Housing Authority / Section 8 Employment: One-on-one employment assistance for King County public housing and Section 8 residents, designed to reduce barriers between public housing residents and their neighbors in the surrounding community. Includes job training and technology instruction, GED, ESL, and ABE assistance, and peer-supported services. White Center: (206) 336-6994. Auburn: (253) 736-2300.

Opportunity Circles: Somali, Vietnamese, Arabic, Spanish, and African-American support groups at Greenbridge where residents can share support, build connections, celebrate cultural identity and heritage, practice language skills and receive culturally-appropriate resources. 206-336-7000.

PharmacyWork\$: 5-week training prepares job seekers for Pharmacy Technician Assistant positions at CVS Pharmacies, Omnicare, Kaiser Permanente, and other pharmacies and health care systems by providing industry-specific job training that combines the history of pharmacy and healthcare, drug regulation and control, and pharmaceutical terminology with in-person labs where students learn pill counting, compounding, and medication mixing. (206) 488.7781

WIOA Adult Employment Services: Tailored to meet the needs of low-income adults facing barriers to employment, WIOA Adult offers comprehensive support for career development and financial stability, including job placement, career counseling, workforce preparation, and vocational training. Seattle: (206) 436-8679. South King County: (206) 678-6097. East King County: (425) 556-1353.

Workfirst Programs: Community Jobs, Community Works: Paid and unpaid on-the-job work experience internships for parents making the transition from welfare dependency (TANF) to self-sufficiency. Internships provide a supportive work environment to build job skills, employment references, and work history. Includes pre-employment job readiness training, educational support, career navigation assistance, and unsubsidized job placement assistance. (206) 436-8613

Working Wardrobe: Offering free, business-appropriate attire to women in need of clothing and accessories for interviews or new jobs. Some locations also offer books for adults and children, Covid supplies, PPE, hygiene supplies, housewares, and fresh produce. Seattle: (206) 436-8602; Redmond: (425) 556.1354; Auburn 206-852-3247

Youth Employment Program and Starbucks Customer Service Training Program: Career and education assistance for young adults aged 16 – 24 including assistance with accessing jobs, training, and vocational education. Includes job coaching, college planning, and assistance with accessing internships, tutoring, and mentorship programs. Also includes partnership with Starbucks and Food & Beverage Customer Service training focused on the hospitality, café and retail sectors (206) 336-6977. (206) 385-7209.