

Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force

Served as a platform for legislative and executive branches to oversee the WorkFirst program, initially focused on the partner agencies' implementation of the redesign of the WorkFirst Program as well as ongoing operation of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to ensure that the programs are achieving desired outcomes for their clients. The Task Force was to determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst program, including measures related to equitably serving the needs of historically underrepresented populations- such as English language learners, immigrants, refugees, and other diverse communities; and develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients and the state agencies responsible for their progress toward self-sufficiency.

The Task Force also served in an advisory capacity to the Governor and the Legislature regarding policies to improve the effectiveness of the WorkFirst program over time, early identification of those recipients most likely to experience long stays on the program and strategies to improve their ability to achieve progress toward self-sufficiency. Last but not least, it made necessary changes to the programs, including taking into account federal changes to TANF.

ESSB 5921 (2011)

A legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight task force is established, with members as provided in this subsection (8)(b).

The task force shall:

- Oversee the partner agencies' implementation of the redesign of the WorkFirst program and operation of the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program to ensure that the programs are achieving desired outcomes for their clients;
- Determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst program, including measures related to equitably serving the needs of historically underrepresented populations, such as English language learners, immigrants, refugees, and other diverse communities;
- Develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients and the state agencies responsible for their progress toward self-sufficiency;
- Make recommendations to the governor and the legislature regarding:
 - Policies to improve the effectiveness of the WorkFirst program over time;
 - Early identification of those recipients most likely to experience long stays on the program and strategies to improve their ability to achieve progress toward self-sufficiency; and
 - Necessary changes to the program, including taking into account federal changes to the temporary assistance for needy families program.