

Workforce Services Division



The Connection!

— April 30, 2025 —

Welcome to Workforce Services Division (WSD) newsletter - *The Connection!* This newsletter focuses on sharing information to connect, engage, support and excel. You can read regular updates on projects and programs, and this month's message from Director Ismaila (Ish) Maidadi.

Legislative Session has ended, and we are now waiting for the Governor's review of the Legislature's budget. Executive leaders are looking at the details and assessing the impacts to our agency. We do know it does not include furloughs or salary reductions and honors current collective bargaining agreements.

We always are here to listen and if you have thoughts or suggestions, we want to hear them. Please send them to the [WSD Virtual Suggestion Box](#); and for newsletter or communications ideas and comments, you can share those by emailing the WSD Communications [inbox](#), and we'll be in touch with you!

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Message from Ismaila (Ish) Maidadi



Dear WSD Team,

We know the pending budget impacts are weighing heavily on everyone's minds. In hallway conversations, team meetings, and throughout our daily work, there's an understandable concern about what these changes mean for our agency, our people, and most importantly, the communities we serve.

Our funding structure is complex, with eight different funding streams; and the full extent of potential layoffs isn't yet clear. Throughout this uncertainty, our primary focus remains on maintaining vital services to job seekers and their families. The work you do creates pathways to employment, financial stability and better futures for countless Washington residents. Please understand that

any reduction in force reflects our current economic climate — not the tremendous value you bring or the essential services you provide to our communities.

During challenging times like these, we must:

- Maintain open communication,
- Support one another with compassion,
- Unite as a team to face challenges together,
- Keep our customers' needs at the center of every decision and
- Find innovative ways to preserve and strengthen our core services.

I've witnessed the power of teamwork firsthand through our Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). They exemplify how collaboration and mutual support create organizational strength. The SLT is working diligently to:

- Support and care for our staff through these changes,
- Prioritize vacancy savings while maintaining service quality,
- Minimize impacts on staff and customer-facing programs,
- Preserve essential customer services and community support,
- Make thoughtful, strategic decisions that protect our core mission,
- Identify efficiencies that don't compromise service delivery and
- Ensure staff have the resources and support needed during this transition.

Think of us as a crew of rowers — each person's contribution keeps us moving forward smoothly. When one person faces challenges, others adjust to maintain our course. This teamwork ensures we continue delivering excellent service even during difficult times.

It's this unified effort that allows us to maintain our high standards of customer support while navigating challenging waters.

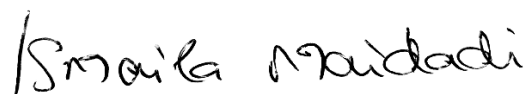


Washington State University, Rowing 101, Washington State Magazine.

I'm deeply grateful for your continued dedication to serving our communities and supporting one another. Your commitment to our customers, even during these uncertain times, demonstrates the true spirit of public service. Remember, you're not alone in this — you have the support of your immediate team and our entire WSD family.

We will navigate these waters together, keeping our focus on those who depend on our services while supporting each other along the way.

Warm regards,



Ismaila (Ish) Maidadi, WSD director

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Project updates & resources

A fresh look at performance data and metrics

Submitted by Alberto Isiordia, WSD assistant director of operations



Building tools to share our results and tell our story



The public sector often operates under tight budgets and high expectations. At WSD, we're turning challenges into opportunities to refine how we measure success, share our impact, and strengthen workforce programs.

Our team is enhancing performance metrics, aligning data systems, and strategically analyzing results to better tell our story. We're creating a robust catalog of data—covering performance, staffing, and programs — to ensure timely, trustworthy, and actionable insights. By building streamlined processes and adopting the new WA

Works platform, we're empowering field staff and leaders with tools to drive smarter decisions.

A strong workplace culture, rooted in trust, enables us to collaborate effectively and use performance data as a resource for growth—not as a weapon. Reliable data lets us identify gaps in service equity, celebrate achievements, and continuously improve outcomes for our customers.



Together, we're building systems that inspire confidence, foster innovation, and enhance program effectiveness. Stay tuned as we continue to refine our approach to data and performance metrics, ensuring our work delivers better results and creates lasting positive impact.

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PSRW 2025 Starts on Monday, May 5!



Only five more days until we celebrate our workforce!

[PSRW 2025](#) is a full week of celebrating your public service!
WorkSource local offices have amazing FUN things planned! Get ready for:

Lunch 'n' Laughs, 80's Dress up, Taco-Bout-it Tuesday, Baby Photos Day, Zumba, Yoga, Ice Trivia Challenges, Jersey Day, Game Days, Wild Hat Day, BBQs, Potlucks with food-4-days and more!

- WSD division-wide celebrations are Monday, May 5, and Friday, May 9, at 10 a.m. *Watch for the new ZOOM meeting invitations that went out today!*
- ESD all-staff town halls are on Tuesday and Thursday, and
- In-person events will be held in Olympia, Spokane and Kennewick!

Check out [PSRW 2025 on InsideESD](#) for details, and we look forward to celebrating with you!

We'd love to share your celebration and gratitude photos. Send them to: ESDGPWSDComms@esd.wa.gov.



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