

# KING COUNTY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES WORKER RETRAINING PROGRAM

## WHAT IS WORKER RETRAINING?

*The Worker Retraining Program is a state funded program that provides educational funding for laid off and dislocated workers who may want training to get back into the workforce. This could be a short-term certificate or a 2-year Associates of Applied Science degree to upgrade your current skills or start on a new career path.*

**Go to [startnextquarter.org](http://startnextquarter.org) to sign up for a workshop today**

## WHAT TRAINING OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

*The Community and Technical Colleges have a wide range of certificates, 2-year Associates of Applied Science and bachelor's degrees. All programs vary in length.*

*\*The Worker Retraining Program does not apply to four-year Universities.*

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE WORKER RETRAINING PROGRAM?

*To be eligible for the Worker Retraining Program you must be a Washington state resident and meet ONE of the following criteria below*

- Currently receiving or eligible to receive unemployment benefits.
- Exhausted Unemployment benefits in the last 4 years.
- Formerly self-employed and business is no longer viable.
- Spouse may be eligible IF unemployed or underemployed after having been dependent on another family member's income, but no longer supported by that income due to separation, divorce, death, or permanent disability of the main wage-earner.
- Recently discharged veteran (and or received a discharge notice) within the last 48 months
- Vulnerable Worker – A worker who is at risk of being unemployed and meets two of the following requirements.
  - Your job is not in demand (Local Area Demand/Decline Occupations list)
  - You do not have more than 45 college credits
  - You must upgrade your skills to remain employed at your current job

## WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE DOES THE WORKER RETRAINING PROGRAM PROVIDE?

*The Worker Retraining program can provide immediate financial assistance for college, educational counseling and personal advising with a Worker Retraining Specialist.*

# COMMISSIONER APPROVED TRAINING (CAT) AND TRAINING BENEFITS (TB)

CAT APPROVAL ALLOWS YOU TO HAVE PERMISSION FROM EMPLOYMENT SECURITY TO ATTEND SCHOOL AND WAIVES YOUR JOB SEARCH REQUIREMENT

## WHAT IS COMMISSIONER APPROVED TRAINING (CAT)?

Commissioner Approved Training (CAT) is a program offered through the Employment Security Department that allows you to collect your regular unemployment benefits while attending an approved, full-time training program at a community or technical college. If approved for CAT you do not have to look for work while receiving unemployment.

## WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CAT?

You must be laid off or meet the profile of a Dislocated Worker. Example: Someone whose current skills are not adequate to make them marketable in today's job market, whose skills are outdated, who was injured and cannot perform the same type of work, or who is dislocated (unemployed) due to a decline in his/her primary industry or the job has been outsourced.

YOU MUST CHOOSE A PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR AN OCCUPATION THAT IS IN DEMAND. TO LEARN IF YOUR PROGRAM OR OCCUPATION IS IN DEMAND GO TO [esd.wa.gov](http://esd.wa.gov) or [careerbridge.wa.gov](http://careerbridge.wa.gov)

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR CAT?

To get assistance with the CAT application, make an appointment with a Worker Retraining Specialist or attend a CAT/TB workshop at a WorkSource center near you.

## TRAINING BENEFITS (TB)

The Training Benefits (TB) program may offer an additional 26 weeks of Unemployment benefits so eligible claimants can train for careers in high demand fields. To get assistance with the TB application make an appointment with a Worker Retraining Specialist or attend a CAT/TB workshop at a WorkSource center near you.

# KING COUNTY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES WORKER RETRAINING CONTACT

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