

Orcas Island

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING RESOURCE GUIDE

*Practical information for job seekers, career changers, and workers living
with disability, mental illness, or financial crisis*



Orcas Community Resource Center

 PO Box 931
374 North Beach Road
Eastsound, WA 98245

 Phone: 360-376-3184
Text: 360-230-8429

 orcascrc.org

 info@orcascrc.org

Your guide to Orcas Island Employment!

Whether you're just entering the workforce, shifting careers, or facing personal challenges, this kit provides practical tools for navigating work. As things are always changing, we encourage you to contact the Resource Center with any questions or for the most up-to-date support.

FIRST STEPS FOR ANYONE SEEKING WORK

1

Stabalize Your Income

Unemployment Insurance (UI)
esd.wa.gov

DSHS Benefits
(SNAP, TANF, ABD, Child Care)
877-501-2233, dshs.wa.gov



2

Housing Stability

Orcas Community Resource Center
360-376-3184, orcascrc.org

OPAL Community Land Trust
opalct.org



3

Find Reliable Transportation

Washington State Ferries (WSF)
wsdot.wa.gov/ferries



EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, MENTAL ILLNESS, OR HEALTH LIMITATIONS

These local organizations contribute in areas related to employment/income, expenses/debt, medical bills, and financial support.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Employment support for adults with physical disabilities, chronic health conditions, or long-term functional limitations.

Services:

- Vocational counseling
- Job coaching and placement
- Training and education support
- Assistive technology evaluations
- Workplace accommodations
- Return-to-work support
- Coordination with medical providers

Eligibility:

- Physical or mental condition that limits work
- Desire to work
- Need for vocational rehabilitation services

Access for Orcas clients:

- Remote appointments by phone or video

Contact:
360-416-7200
dshs.wa.gov/dvr

Sherwood Community Services (Apple Health clients)

Services:

- Job coaching
- Supported employment
- Mental-health-informed vocational support
- Long-term job retention

Contact:
360-679-7853
sherwoodcs.org

WorkSource Washington (all clients)

Services:

- Employment counseling
- Resume and cover letter support
- Job search assistance
- Training funds
- Virtual workshops
- Accommodations guidance

Contact:
360-416-3600
worksourcewa.com



EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, MENTAL ILLNESS, OR HEALTH LIMITATIONS

continued

Northwest Workforce Council (NWC)

Services:

- Training and certification funding
- Supportive services (transportation, tools, clothing)
- Individual employment plans

Contact:

360-676-3200
nwboard.org

Goodwill Job Training & Education Center (Mount Vernon)

Services:

- Digital literacy
- Job readiness
- Career coaching
- Online and in-person classes

Contact:

360-848-6468
goodwillwa.org

Opportunity Council (Bellingham)

Services:

- Digital literacy
- Job readiness training
- Case management
- Supportive services

Contact:

360-734-5121
oppco.org



JOB SEARCH FOR ORCAS ISLAND RESIDENTS

Local Job Boards

Orcas Island Chamber of Commerce - orcasislandchamber.com

San Juan County Jobs - sanjuanco.com

Orcas Island School District - orcasislandschools.org



REMOTE & HYBRID JOB SEARCH WEBSITES

Washington Specific

WA State Government Jobs - careers.wa.gov

WorkSourceWA.com

National Remote Job Boards

Indeed – indeed.com

SimplyHired – simplyhired.com

Glassdoor – glassdoor.com

LinkedIn Jobs – linkedin.com/jobs

Remote.co – remote.co

RemoteOK – remoteok.com

WeWorkRemotely – weworkremotely.com

WorkBeyond.io – workbeyond.io

TRAINING, EDUCATION & APPRENTICESHIPS

Skagit Valley College (SVC)

Programs:
Worker Retraining, GED, English language, certificates,
career navigation.
360-416-7600
skagit.edu

Apprenticeships (Paid, Structured, Predictable)

Washington State Apprenticeship Directory -
Apprenticeships

Healthcare Apprenticeship Consortium -
healthcareapprenticeship.org

Washington Maritime Federation -
maritimefederation.com

Construction Trades (Puget Sound)
Website: Apprenticeship & Training - WASHINGTON
STATE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES
COUNCIL



Online Training & Certificates (Flexible, Self-Paced)

Google Career Certificates
Online Courses with Certificates – Grow with Google

Coursera – coursera.org

EdX – edx.org

LinkedIn Learning – linkedin.com/learning

SUPPORT FOR WORKERS INJURED ON THE JOB

Washington State Labor & Industries (L&I)

Services: Wage replacement, medical coverage, vocational retraining, “Stay at Work” program.
lni.wa.gov

BUDGETING & FINANCIAL STABILITY TOOLS

Bridge budgeting during job transition

Crisis budgeting for high-cost islands

Prioritizing bills

Senior-friendly worksheets

ORCAS-SPECIFIC BARRIERS & SOLUTIONS

Housing Scarcity

- Prepare rental packets
- Gather references
- Budget for island costs

Limited Childcare

- Licensed providers
- Subsidy programs
- Backup care options

Transportation

- Ferry reliability
- Ride-share options
- Remote work as a primary strategy

SAMPLE SCRIPTS

Calling an Employer

"Hi, my name is ___. I'm calling about the position you posted. I'd like to learn more about the role and share my experience."

Requesting Accommodations

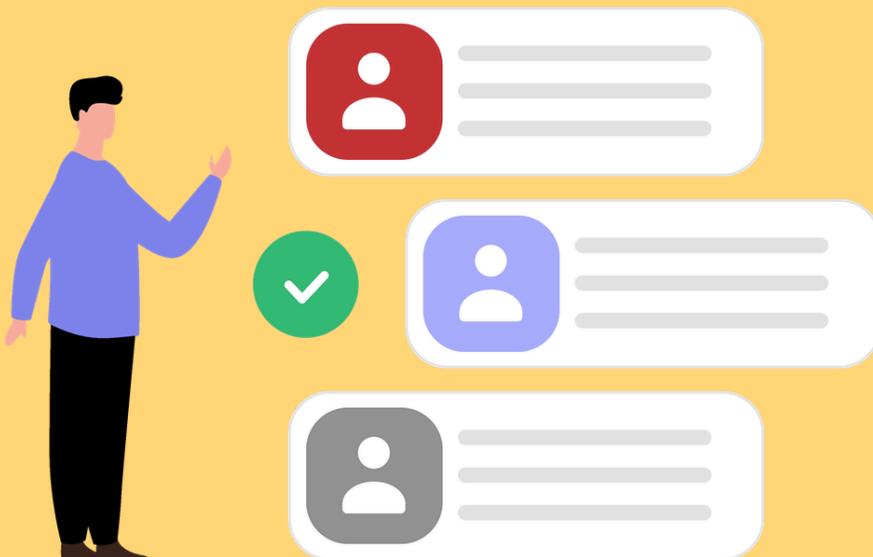
"I can perform the essential functions of this job. I just need a small accommodation to do my best work."

Talking to Landlords About Income Changes

"I want to be transparent about my situation and show you my plan for stable income moving forward."

QUICK DECISION GUIDE

- Has Apple Health? → Sherwood
- Is there a physical disability or chronic health condition? → DVR
- Needs structured employment help. → WorkSource or NWC
- Has anxiety/PTSD/cognitive fatigue? → Goodwill
- Needs housing + employment support? → Opportunity Council
- Wants paid training. → Apprenticeships
- Needs flexible learning. → Online certificates
- Needs a degree or certificate. → SVC



For the latest resources or additional support, the Resource Center is always just a call away!