

Work First Guiding Principles

- ◆ Employment is the foundation of society.
- ◆ All families have a responsibility for themselves and for their children.
- ◆ Work First is family driven, family focused and family friendly.
- ◆ All families are different.
- ◆ Work First is viewed as short-term solution for most families.



Ashe County Department of Social Services

Family Support Services

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▶ Work First Family Assistance



**Promoting
Employment and
Self-Sufficiency**



North Carolina's Work First program is based on the premise that parents have a responsibility to support themselves and their children.

The Work First program promotes a strengths-based, family-centered practice approach, encouraging families and social workers to collaborate to meet a participant's goals. Work First provides parents with short-term training and other supportive services to help them become employed and move toward self-sufficiency.

“Child Only” Work First

Families in which grandparents or other non-parent caregivers are caring for relative children can receive services and support that help to prevent children from unnecessarily entering the foster care system. These cases are considered “child only” (i.e. only the children are countable for benefit purposes) and, therefore, these families are not subject to work participation requirements.

Work First Benefits

All adults who are included in the assistance payment must have a Mutual Responsibility Agreement (MRA) Plan of Action. For parents, this agreement requires the individuals to work or participate in work-related activities. These adults must complete all of the requirements on their agreement each month before receiving Work First Cash Assistance, unless there is good cause. Work First Benefits (WFB) mirror the working world, where individuals “work first” and receive payment for employment afterwards.

Work First Employment Services

Work First Employment Services is the component of the Work First Program that helps participants prepare for and find a job. A Work First case manager will help participants choose an activity that best meets their individual needs.



finding a job.

Once an individual applies, he or she will immediately begin working with Employment Services and be required to take steps toward

Work First Components

Countable participation components may include:

- ◆ Employment
- ◆ Job Search / Readiness
- ◆ On-the-job Training
- ◆ Work Experience
- ◆ Community Service
- ◆ Vocational Training
- ◆ GED classes
- ◆ Secondary Education
- ◆ Job Skills Training



In order to definitively determine eligibility please speak with a WFFA Social Worker.

Walk-ins are welcome; Appointments are encouraged.