

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



"I was feeling stagnant on my goals, and now I'm making progress on them."

Sam began working with a Foundational Community Support program in 2021 after she was discharged from inpatient treatment for substance use disorder. Sam was able to find a job on her own working as a maintenance technician at Olalla Recovery Center.

However, Sam had long-term aspirations of using her lived experiences to benefit local communities by becoming a licensed clinical social worker, she was nervous about navigating being an adult college student while managing a full-time job so she reached out to Skookum and reenrolled in services.

That's when Sam began meeting weekly with her employment specialist and was able to enroll in winter quarter classes at Tacoma community college (TCC) to begin working on her associate degree in human services. during this time, Sam also took a new position with Amazon as a delivery partner, which would give her increased flexibility in her work schedule and allow her to attend classes easily. She's been able to develop a support system of fellow peers at TCC and was able to advocate for herself to get the disability accommodations she needed.

Sam, we're so excited about how far you've come, and we see great things in your future!

CES STAFF



MEGAN

Workforce Development Director

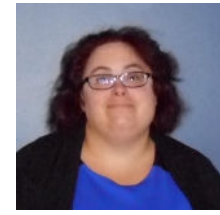
About: I'm a Washington state native. I completed my Master's degree in Student Development Administration from Seattle University. I came to Skookum 8 years ago. My hobbies include spending time with my husband, three children, five pets, gardening, camping and reading.
Motivation: At Skookum we like to say work is the medicine. I am motivated by people finding success in their work life.



AMANDA

CES Manager

About: I grew up in Maryland and moved to Washington in 2017. I have a Bachelor's in Social Work from Bowie State University. I came to Skookum 4 years ago to pursue a career helping people with disabilities. I enjoy painting, reading, playing the piano, and going on nature walks with my husband and dog, Rooster.
Motivation: I am passionate about helping people learn to help themselves. I love seeing someone succeed and achieve their goals.



ELIZABETH

Employment Specialist

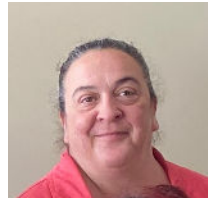
About: Originally from Brooklyn, New York, I have traveled the United States as a military spouse until coming to Washington. I have been working for Skookum since March 2021. The highlight of my week is spent teaching job readiness classes weekly at Kitsap Recovery Center.
Motivation: My passion for working with clients stems from my own lived experiences as a person with multiple disabilities and being in long-term recovery.



LINDEN

Employment Specialist

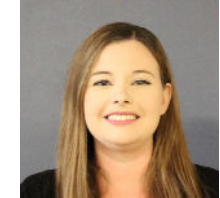
About: Born in Sioux City, Iowa I went on to travel to the UK, Ireland, Russia, Afghanistan and eventually living in India for a year. Upon returning to the US I moved to Alaska and then Idaho. I have been here in Washington state since 2021. I have worked assisting individuals with disabilities from the time I was a teenager in the Midwest and eventually for over the last 20+ years in Idaho.
Motivation: To find a job for every client that matches their abilities. To help every client on an individualized basis that works best for them. I love the work I do every day.



LIBERTY

AmeriCorps Mentor

About: Born in California, but raised here in Kitsap County, I am a single mother of an awesome and wonderfully challenging fifteen-year-old and a Veteran of the United States Coast Guard. I have a Bachelors in Tribal Governance from The Evergreen State College and I have a background in Chemical Dependency.
Motivation: I am here to help you achieve a career that will give you a sense of accomplishment and stability.



CAITLIN

Employment Specialist

About: Born and raised in Everett WA, and spent some time traveling the southern states as a military spouse before returning and residing in Kitsap County in 2015. I am a mother of three amazing children. We enjoy camping, hiking, bike riding, and anything outdoors. My hobbies are knitting, reading, and cleaning.
Motivation: Providing and supporting individuals with all abilities opportunities to find and maintain paid integrated employment in the community.



Employer Spotlight: Watson Furniture

Watson Furniture's story dates back to the early 1960s when a metal worker by the name of Graham Watson set up shop on Bainbridge Island. 25-years later he developed a partnership that led Watson to where it is today. They continue to honor his vertical integration model and provide long-term stability for the hardworking men and women of Watson. Watson strives for creating jobs for people who want what a lot of workers don't have; the pride that comes with craftsmanship. They train and provide their staff with opportunities to learn and grow within the field of manufacturing. Watson creates and develops custom furniture for their clients and customers. Their values embody character, taking responsibility, and playing to win. They believe in working together and creating competitive advantages.

Watson Furniture was extremely accommodating and willing to discuss supporting adults with disabilities and the development and implementation of accommodations as needed. Watson communicated and asked questions about supported employment and was welcoming to skookum coming in and providing short-term retention support at their location. Watson furniture is an employer that values teaching and supporting entry-level employees with opportunities to learn and grow within the organization.





SUCCESS STORY

When Employment Specialist Elizabeth Yeager met Shawnie for the first time, Shawnie told her during intake,

“One day I’m going to be one of your client success stories.”

Shawnie received services from Skookum entirely remote as she lives in Sequim, Washington. Her work history consisted primarily of food service, housekeeping, and landscaping. Wanting to improve her life for both her and her daughter, Shawnie jumped into the job market, searching eagerly. There are a lot of jobs available in Sequim, however many of those jobs required more education than what Shawnie had.

Despite her barriers, Shawnie found the perfect job, she is now working at Mervin Manufacturing as an Edger who assists with the manufacturing of snowboards. Shawnie was also extremely excited to share how supportive she felt by her employer when she self-advocated for her disability accommodations in the workplace. She has aspirations to enroll in community college this upcoming fall to major in an environmental science focus.

Congratulations Shawnie, great things are coming your way!!



Skookum is proud to be partnering with the following employers in Kitsap County:

Lowes

Second Season Thrift Store

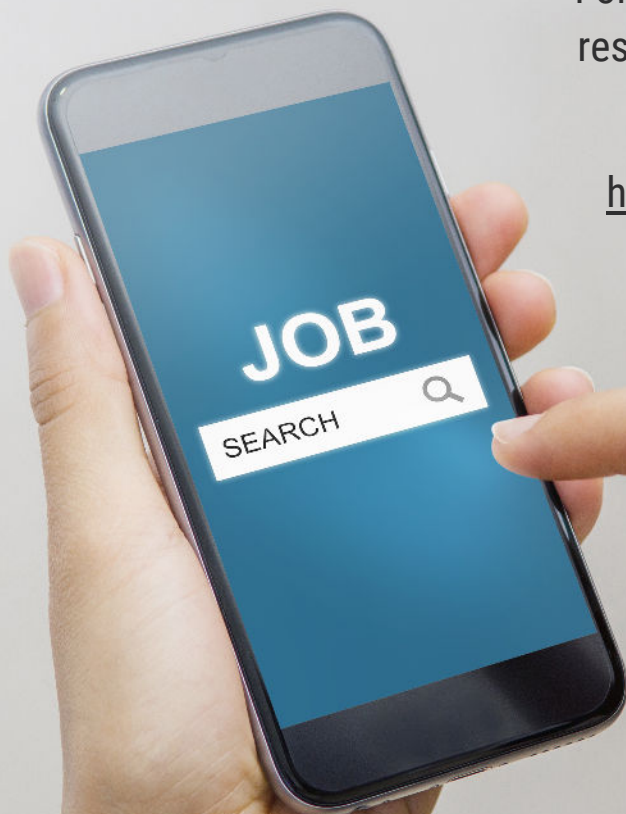
Ross Dress for Less

Watson Furniture

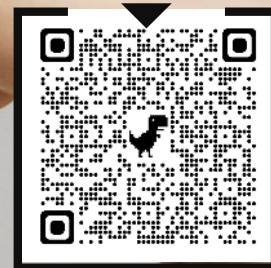
Amazon

Follow us on Facebook for free resources, job leads and hiring events in Kitsap County.

<https://www.facebook.com/SkookumCES/>



SCAN ME



UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Classes starting at Kitsap Community Resources!

Each month, KCR offers several, free classes on many different topics such as:

- Computer Basics
- How to survive a financial crisis
- Resumes and Cover Letters
- Interview Prep
- Debt Collection Management
- How to start your own business
- Communication 101
- Free first aid and CPR classes
- How to use a tablet or smart phone

Skookum will be teaching this class!



HOW TO SIGN UP:

Click on the link below to see what classes are coming up and register.

<https://www.kcr.org/events>



BENEFITS PLANNING RESOURCES

Want to know how work can affect your benefits?



Plan to Work is a free and voluntary service available to individuals in the state of Washington (except southern counties Pacific, Lewis, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat, Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla) who are currently receiving disability benefits from the Social Security Administration and want to work. We answer questions about how work affects benefits, and identify work incentives to support career goals.

IF YOU ARE:

Currently receiving disability benefits from the Social Security Administration

AND:

Working more than occasionally or ...

Weighing a job offer or ...

Considering earning more due to a promotion, second job, career change, or self-employment or ...

Encountering problems or changes that might result in resignation, cutting back work or otherwise losing earned income or ...

Having trouble reporting your earnings to Social Security or ...

Experiencing changes in your benefits after beginning work ...

Call the Ticket to Work Helpline, at (866) 968-7842



Transforming lives

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (DVR)

- Available to all clients receiving DVR services
- To learn more or request services: Contact your DVR Counselor OR visit the DSHS website at <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/benefits-planning>



WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING & ASSISTANCE (WIPA)

- For Social Security (SSI/SSDI) beneficiaries
- Must generally be currently working or actively seeking employment
- To learn more or find a provider: Call the Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 OR 1-866-833-2967 (TTY) Visit the Choose Work website at <https://choosework.ssa.gov/>

NEED HELP?

FIND YOUR DREAM JOB



FCS

Must have Apple Health insurance:

- Amerigroup Washington
- Community Health Plan of Washington
- Coordinated Care of Washington
- Molina Healthcare of Washington
- UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

And a mental health diagnosis, substance use disorder diagnosis or struggle with chronic homelessness

If you have a physical or mental disability that is a substantial barrier to employment; and you require vocational rehabilitation services to get or keep a job.

DVR

TICKET TO WORK

Everyone age 18 through 64 who receives Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits because of his or her disability and wants to earn more money by working.

Contact us today to see if you qualify for services!

CES@skookum.org
360-475-0756 ext 131

