Funded Pathways to Living Wage Work

*Equity in Funding for Basic Skills Students*

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Session Objectives

• Participants will:
  • Learn how WA state funds basic skills students in living wage career pathway programs.
  • Share their state efforts in funding basic skills students to living wage careers.
  • Receive planning resources for further funding work in their state.
BEdA in Guided Pathways

- Integrated Workforce, employment, and academic skills.
- Industry specific contextualized instruction
- Comprehensive navigation & student support
- Dual enrollment
- Job placement & Education Transitions
Ensuring Equity in Pathway Funding

- Contextualized Basic Skills ($25/quarter)
  - High School Plus (HS+)
  - I-BEST @ Work
  - I-DEA
  - College Readiness/Employability Skills
  - IET/IELCE Career Specific Basic Skills

- I-BEST Quarter 1
  - Opportunity Grant
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF or WorkFirst in Washington state)
  - Basic Food, Employment, and Training (BFET)
  - Worker Retraining
  - WIOA Title I & II

- I-BEST → Two-year Degree
  - Ability to Benefit (Pell)
  - WA College Grant
  - Opportunity Grant (up to 45 credits)

- Applied Baccalaureate Degrees
  - Ability to Benefit (Pell)
  - WA College Grant
Contextualized Basic Skills

• For $25/quarter, students can take the following coursework:
  • High School Plus (HS+)
  • I-BEST @ Work
  • Integrated Digital English Acceleration I-DEA
  • College Readiness/Employability Skills
  • IET/IELCE Career Specific Basic Skills

• Students who are unable to pay can apply for a waiver for this coursework.
I-BEST Quarter One

• Currently students must first earn six college credits (or pass an approved test) before applying for Ability to Benefit.

• Funding the first quarter of a student’s pathway is key.

• Washington state resources for this first quarter include:
  • Opportunity Grant (first 45 credits of a pathway)
  • Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF or WorkFirst)
  • Basic Food, Employment, and Training (BFET)
  • Worker Retraining
  • WIOA Title I & II Funds

• Most of these resources extend past the first quarter as well.
I-BEST → Two and Four-year Degrees

• Once a student has earned six college credits, they may be eligible for Ability to Benefit and have access to Pell Grants and other forms of Federal Student Aid (FSA).

• The Washington College Grant is a new resource with major impacts to our students (more information in following slides.)
Washington College Grant

• The Washington College Grant (WCG) is the new state financial aid program.

• The WCG ensures more people in Washington state can pursue their dreams of a college education and a better life.

• Starting Fall 2020, The WCG will:
  • Provide guaranteed funding for all eligible students – no more wait lists.
  • Extend financial aid to more families. As incomes go up, the award amounts go down.
Washington College Grant, con’t.

• Starting Fall 2020:
  • A family of four making $50,500 or less will receive a full financial aid award that covers the full cost of tuition plus state-mandated fees. For Fall 2019, the threshold for a full financial aid award is $46,000.
  • Middle-income families of four will be able to earn about $92,000 and still get some level of aid i.e. a partial award.) For fall 2019, the top income limit for a partial award is $64,000.
  • Basic Education for Adults (BEdA) has requested that the WCG follow the same criteria as the Ability to Benefit Option 3 proposal (see next slides.)
Ability to Benefit: A Lifejacket for Students

• The Washington College Grant, Opportunity Grant, and workforce funds provide excellent support to students.

• Access to Federal Pell Grants completes the picture
  • Helps students pay for their education
  • Grants students money for living expenses
  • Remember: Pell is a grant, not a loan!

• Currently, students must first achieve a cut score on an approved test or earn six college credits before applying for Ability to Benefit.

• Washington state has proposed a “third option”...
Ability to Benefit: Option 3

• “Option 3” permits students to demonstrate ability to benefit from federal student aid “in accordance with such process as the State shall prescribe.”

• Washington state submitted a proposed process to Secretary DeVos with letters of support from Governor Inslee and congressional delegates.

• Our process would give more students access to ATB through co-enrollment in I-BEST and HS+, and would relieve the eligibility requirements that students must first either achieve a cut score or earn six college credits.

• Key statistic: in Washington state, 91% of I-BEST students earn their first six college credits.
Putting It All Together

• Washington state uses a mix of state and federal resources to provide funding solutions to students.

• Navigational services tied to I-BEST and BEdA help students “navigate” the maze of resources.

• Ability to Benefit is a critical resource for providing students not only with stable funding, but with resources for living expenses.
Questions & Contact Info

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