

From: [Washington College Grant \(WSAC\)](#)
Subject: WA Bridge Grant Official Guidance
Date: Thursday, May 5, 2022 12:21:32 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[WA Bridge Grant O & A's.pdf](#)

Hello FAA Colleagues,

As many of you are aware, there is a new financial aid program that was created during the 2022 legislative session. The Washington Bridge Grant program is a new program that is for the 2022-23 award year. Because this program was created by a proviso in the budget, at this time, *it is only for the 2022-23 award year*. More guidance will be provided in the 2022-23 Washington College Grant and College Bound Scholarship Program Manual.

We would like to thank the State Financial Aid Advisory Work Group for all of their input and feedback as the guidance was developed for this program. For those of you that may not be familiar with this advisory group, it is comprised of representatives from the 4-year institutions, 3 appointed representatives from the Financial Aid Council (Community & Technical College sector), and representatives from the Council of Presidents, Independent Colleges of Washington, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and representatives from the private sector for the Northwest Career Colleges Federation. They represent all of you at weekly legislative calls during session and continue to meet as needed to provide input on new program development, review existing programs for improvement, and assist with writing new rules.

Washington Bridge Grant

Eligible recipients are those receiving the maximum WCG (0-60% MFI), who are not CBS eligible, are enrolled in at least three credits and who have unmet need.

Colleges may award the funds either as a one-time lump sum payment of \$500 or may award the annual maximum disbursed over enrolled terms (i.e., \$166/\$166/\$167 per quarter or \$250 per semester), whichever is in the best interest of the student.

Professional judgement decisions to award in a manner different than the institutional awarding policy are acceptable but must be documented.

The \$500 is an annual award and is cumulative for all colleges – meaning there will be edits in the portal for confirming if the student has been awarded/received Washington Bridge Grant elsewhere during the 2022-23 award year.

This award is not pro-rated for enrollment level and is an annual award. However, if a college does a per term award, they will not be required to retroactively award funds to a student who fails to enroll in all terms.

We are advising colleges to label all references to this new program as the Washington Bridge Grant or WA Bridge Grant. This will assist students with recognition of the program by using

standardized naming across institutions.

To accommodate WA Bridge Grant awards, WSAC will be updating the CSAW record layout to include 5 new fields: WA Bridge Grant Summer 1, WA Bridge Grant Fall, WA Bridge Grant Winter, WA Bridge Grant Spring and WA Bridge Grant Summer 2. Institutions will provide the award/dollar value in the appropriate field. For example, if doing a lump sum payment for fall term, the WA Bridge Grant Fall field value would be "\$500," with all other fields left blank.

WSAC will be sending out a sample template of the CSV file as soon as it is available and it will also be posted at <https://wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources>, under Program Manuals and Charts.

We are attaching a list of Q & A's that have evolved as a result of the development of this guidance. This will also be posted on the FAA resources page and will be updated as needed.

We appreciate all the feedback you have provided. Please continue to let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

The SFA Team



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