## HEN/ABD - DSHS to send

## SUBJECT: Eligibility for Free College Tuition

Want free college or career training? It's possible! Most people and families who get benefits from DSHS (food, cash, medical) are likely eligible for the <u>Washington College Grant (WA Grant</u>). WA Grant gives people money for education beyond high school, like certificate programs, job training, apprenticeships or college.

This is not a loan—it is free money for education or training that does not have to be paid back. Some people who receive DSHS benefits are not required to complete a financial aid application (such as the federal FAFSA form) to get WA Grant. Reach out to the financial aid office at your local college today to see if you qualify.

WA Grant is available to people of all ages. You and your family can benefit, whether you have a child about to graduate from high school or you want to train for a new career. The amount you receive depends on your family size, your income and the cost of your school or program. Eligible people who get DSHS benefits typically qualify for a full award, which means public college tuition would likely be free.

You don't have to go to school or attend career training full time to access WA Grant. There are many part-time opportunities, so you can work, raise your family and pursue your career goals all at the same time. WA Grant recipients must meet program requirements and attend an approved college or program.

It's never too late to change your future. Learn more on the WA Grant website.

## SNAP – DSHS to send, can go out any time

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To qualify for WA Grant, you must <u>complete a financial aid application</u> like the federal FAFSA form (or, in limited circumstances, the state WASFA). Applying for financial aid is the only way to know for sure if you qualify to get money for college or career training.

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