

Pathways for Returning Adults

The **Washington Adult Reengagement Framework** will provide the infrastructure and support for adults without a degree or meaningful postsecondary credential to achieve their academic and career goals, earn a living wage, and contribute to Washington's vital economy.

Did you know?

Empowering adults to return to college, earn a credential, and advance in their careers can have profound benefits on Washington's families, our communities, and state's economic and civic health.

Washington by the Numbers



1.2 million Washington adults (ages 25-44) are not enrolled don't have a postsecondary credential.

Of that population, nearly **800,000** have a high school diploma.

300,000 have at least one year of college.

More than **75 percent** of job openings in Washington require education beyond high school.

The Consequence of Inaction

Though many adults understand the benefits of higher education, significant barriers stand in their way. For example, financial constraints and family obligations make it hard to return to college. Those same barriers can result in further delays or abandonment of their educational aspirations.



If Washington adults do not have accessible and affordable options for postsecondary education, they risk continued underemployment without the many benefits that come from earning a postsecondary credential.

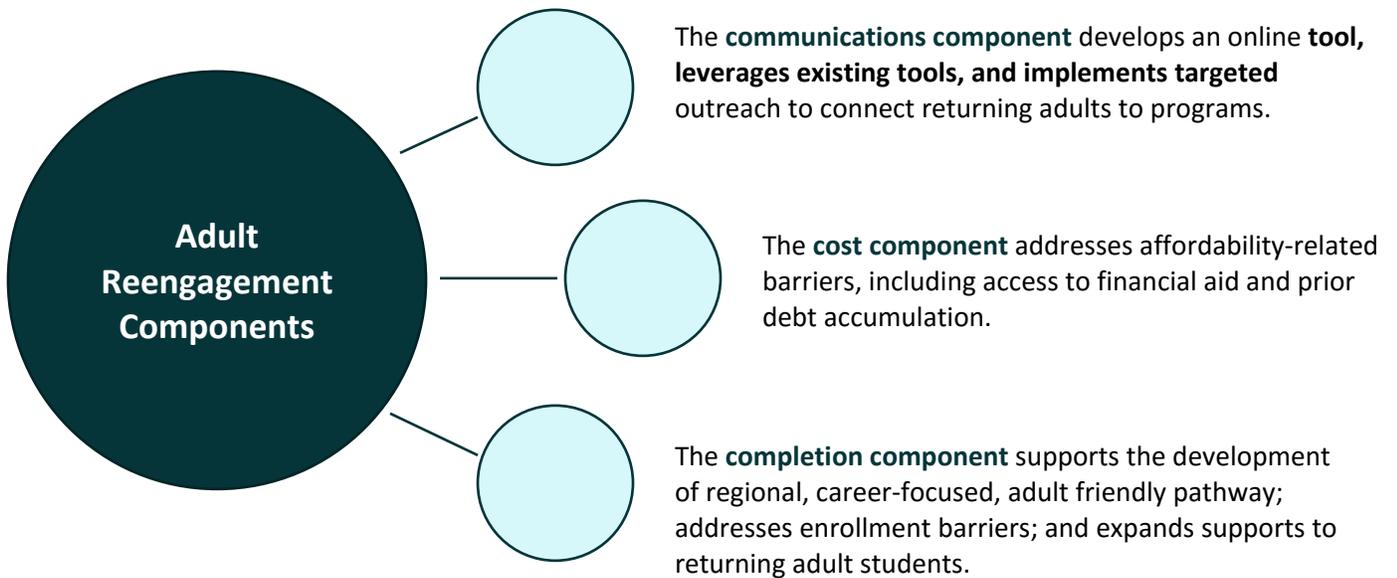
The completion of a postsecondary credential is critical for participation and success in the 21st century economy.

Washington:

- ... Ranks first in the nation in need-based financial aid per undergraduate enrollment.
- ... Serves nearly 70,000 students (over 42 percent aged 24 or older) through the State Need Grant.
- ... Provides strong pathways for transfer students and returning students, including policies to support students in receiving credit for prior learning.
- ... Supports a number of policies that increase the access to and the affordability of higher education.

Washington, with its strong foundation of work and commitment to an inclusive and responsive higher education system, is well-positioned to develop a framework to reengage adult learners.

Critical Framework Components



Poised for Success

To meet this need for skilled employees, Washington adopted a goal of at least 70 percent of all adults (ages 25-44) completing a postsecondary certificate or degree. Work on the Adult Reengagement Framework is an essential step to reaching the educational attainment goal.

Success will hinge on continued partnerships with key stakeholders from higher education, businesses and employers, targeted regions of the state, state agencies, and policy makers, who together will strengthen and define our shared commitment to serving adult students.