

Work Session – June 21

Refining strategies to increase educational attainment

Washington Student Achievement Council

Strategies to Increase Educational Attainment



Questions For Today's Work Session

Background

- What is the Strategic Action Plan?
- What is WSAC's role in reaching the Roadmap goals?
- What are key challenge areas impeding progress?

Guiding Questions for Discussion

- How can we improve and refine the proposed strategies?
- What other strategies should the Council endorse to reach the goals?
- Are there areas of alignment and opportunities for partnership?

REACHING THE
ROADMAP GOALS

June 21 Work Session

ROADMAP ATTAINMENT GOALS

THE ROADMAP

A Plan to Increase Educational Attainment in Washington



100%

High school diploma
or equivalent

90%

Washington population ages 25-44



70%

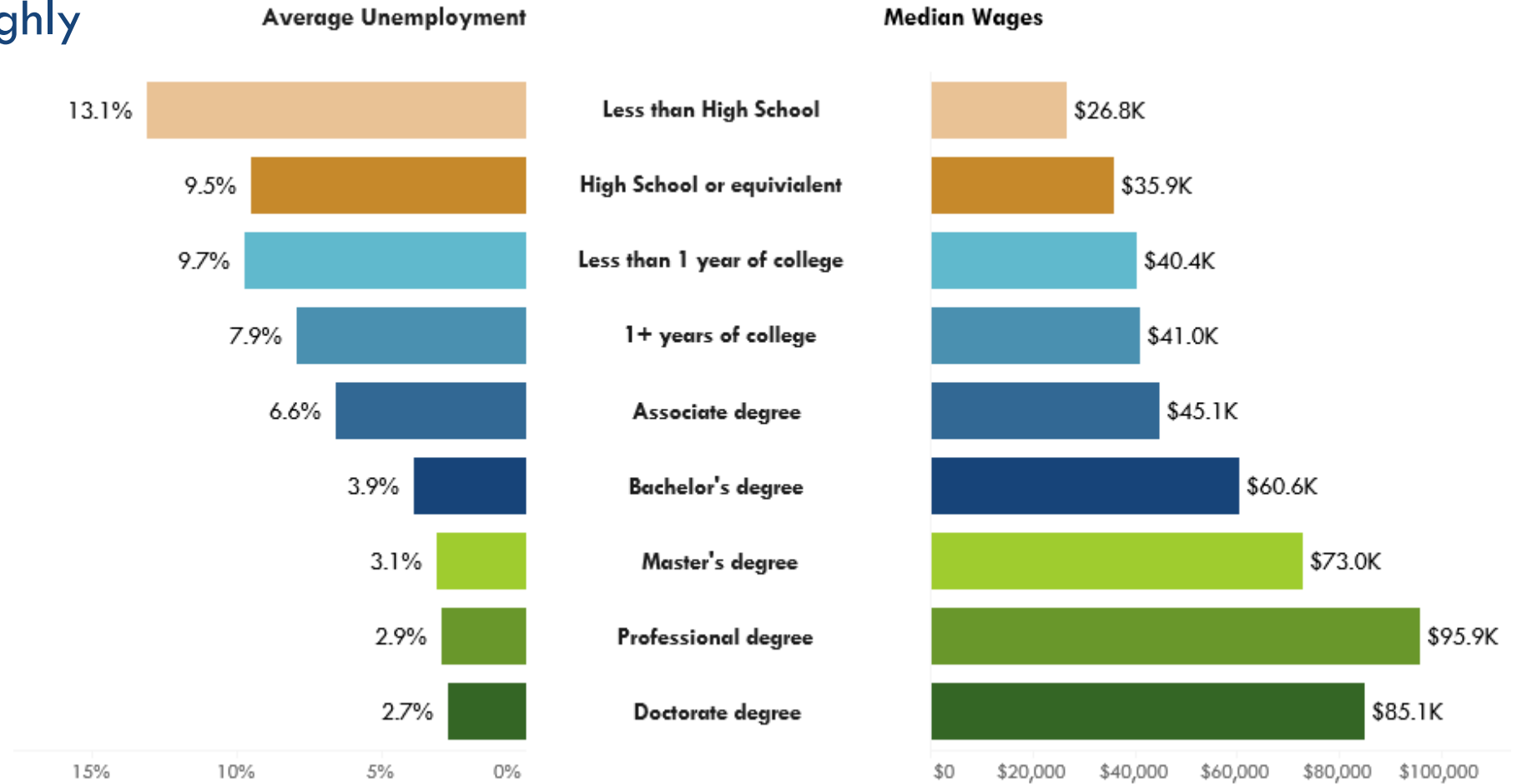
Postsecondary
credential

52%

Source: 2017 Roadmap Progress Report Handout

The Need for an Educated Workforce

- Employers need a highly skilled workforce to remain competitive.

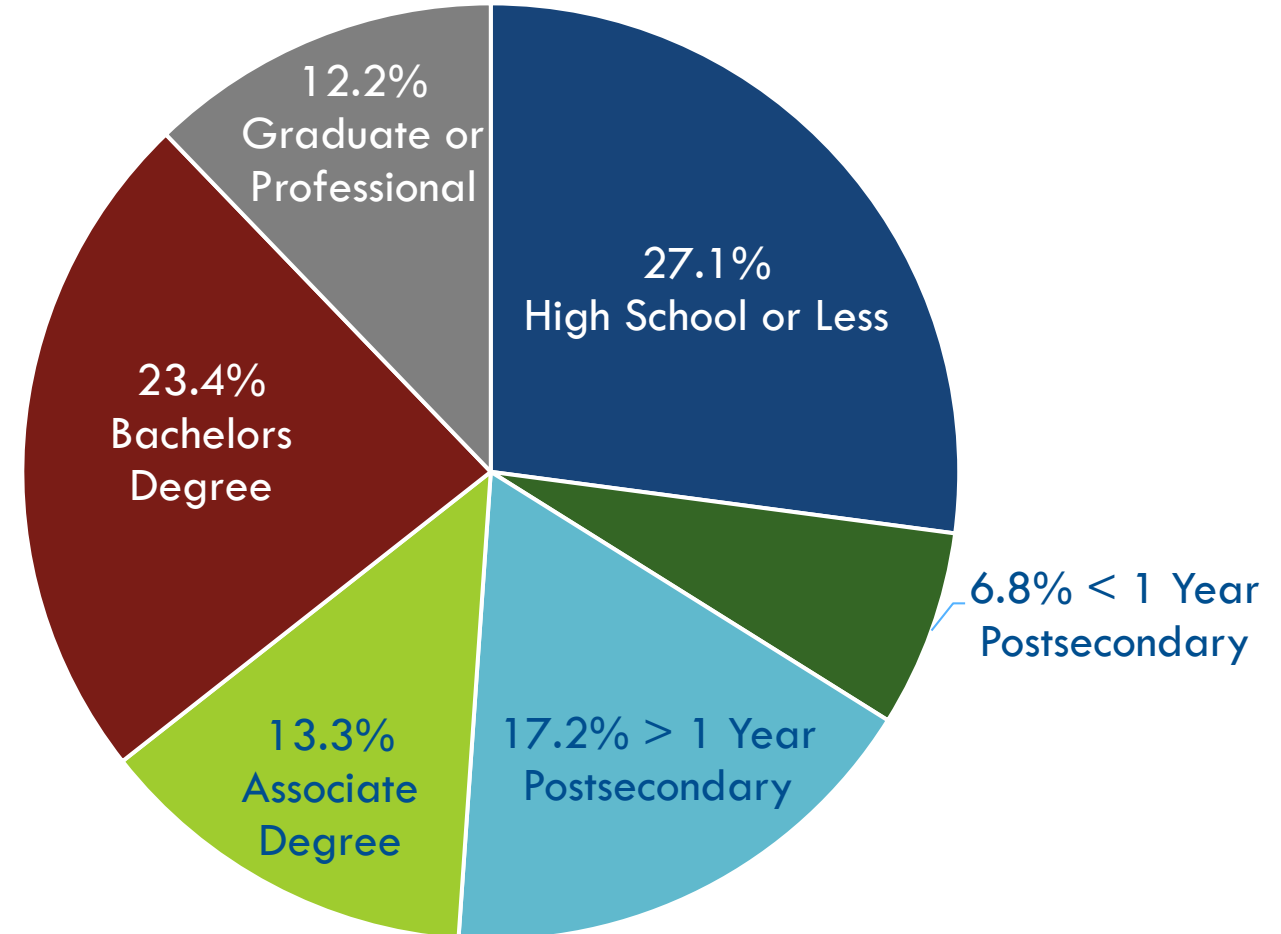


Source: Roadmap Dashboard & WSAC analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey, U.S. Census

Bold Strategies are Needed

- Employers need a highly skilled workforce to remain competitive.
- Our residents are not earning the needed credentials – and there are gaps at every educational level

Total Projected Job Openings by Education Level, 2020-2025

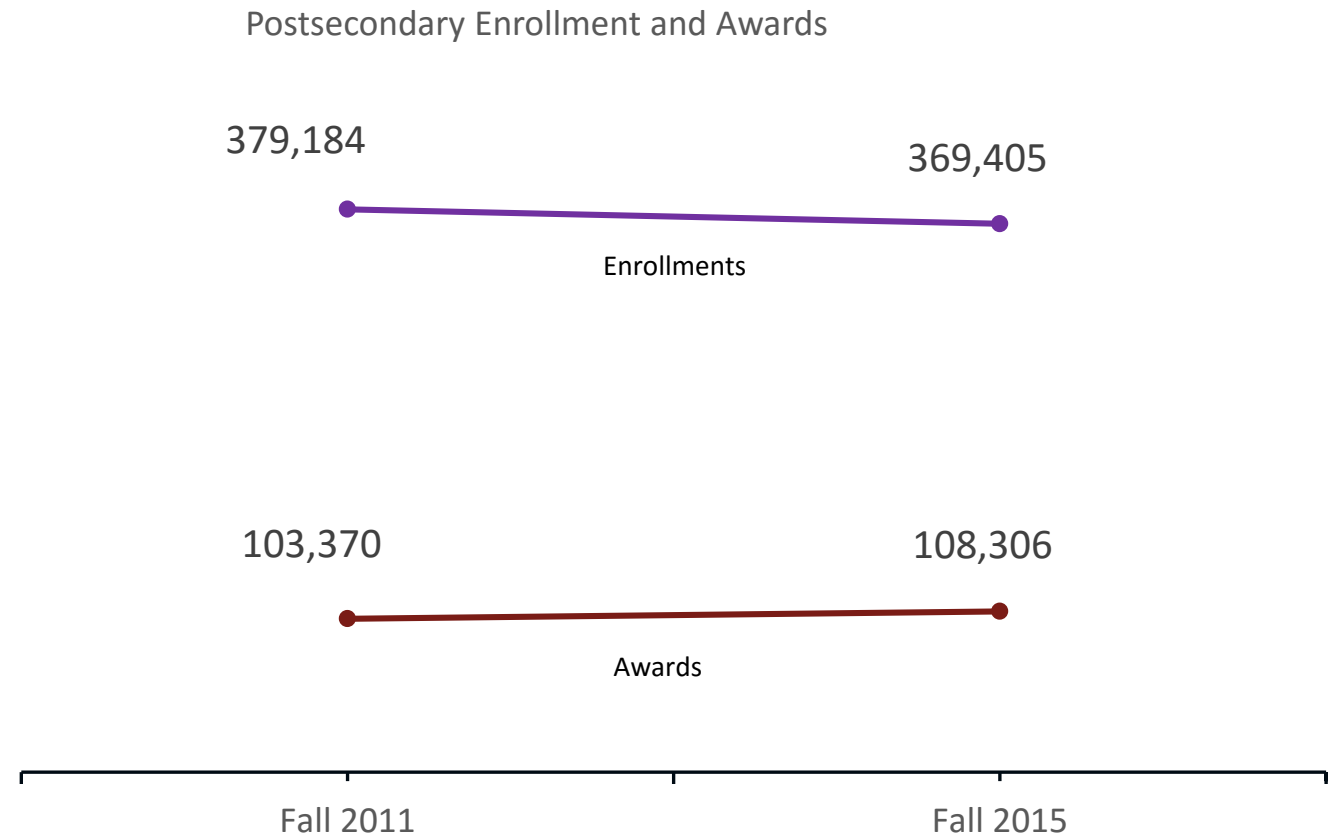


Source: 2017 WSAC, SBCTC, WFB Skilled and Educated Workforce Report. WSAC Analysis of openings in 2017 Washington State Employment Security Department, Long-Term Employment Forecast and Educational Levels based on 2011-15 American Community Survey.

Bold Strategies are Needed

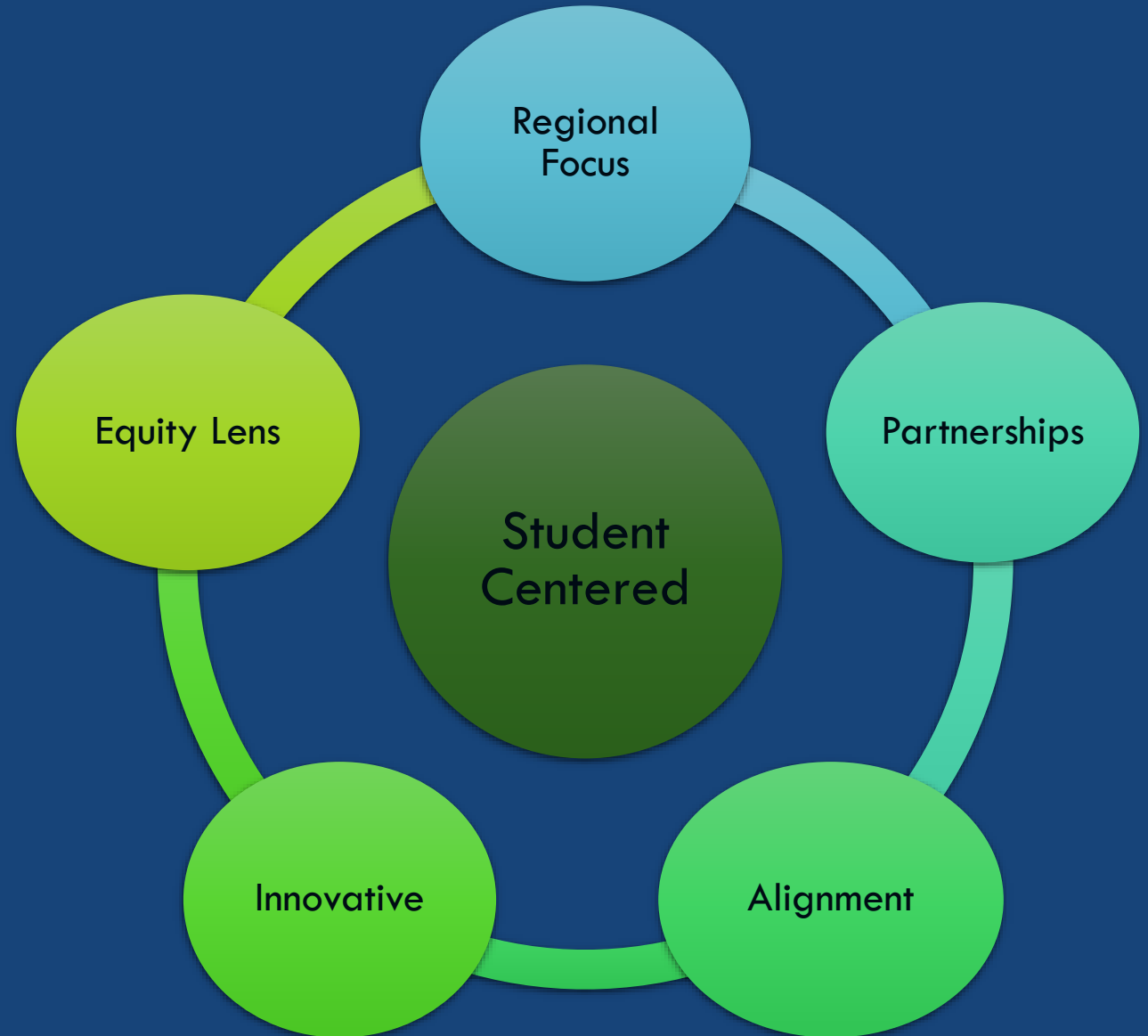
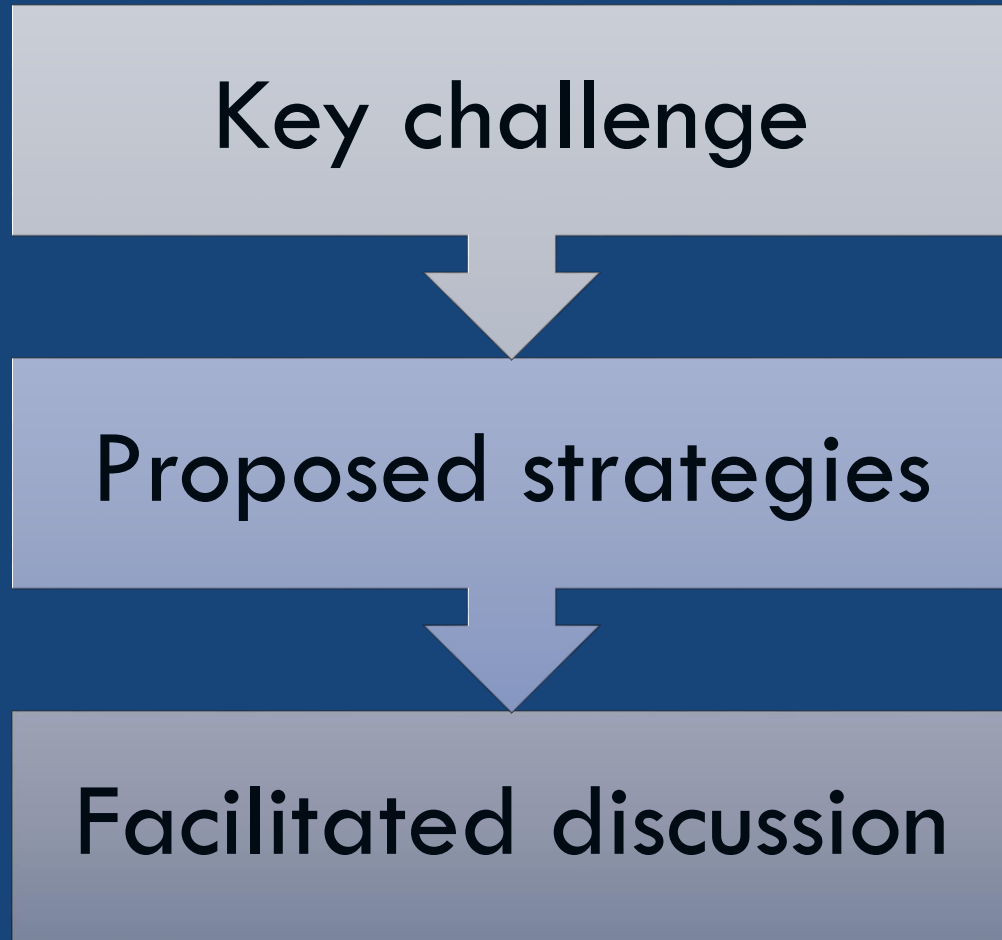
- Employers need a highly skilled workforce to remain competitive.
- Our residents are not earning the needed credentials – and there are gaps at every educational level
- Employers find talent elsewhere and our residents are not competitive for living-wage jobs

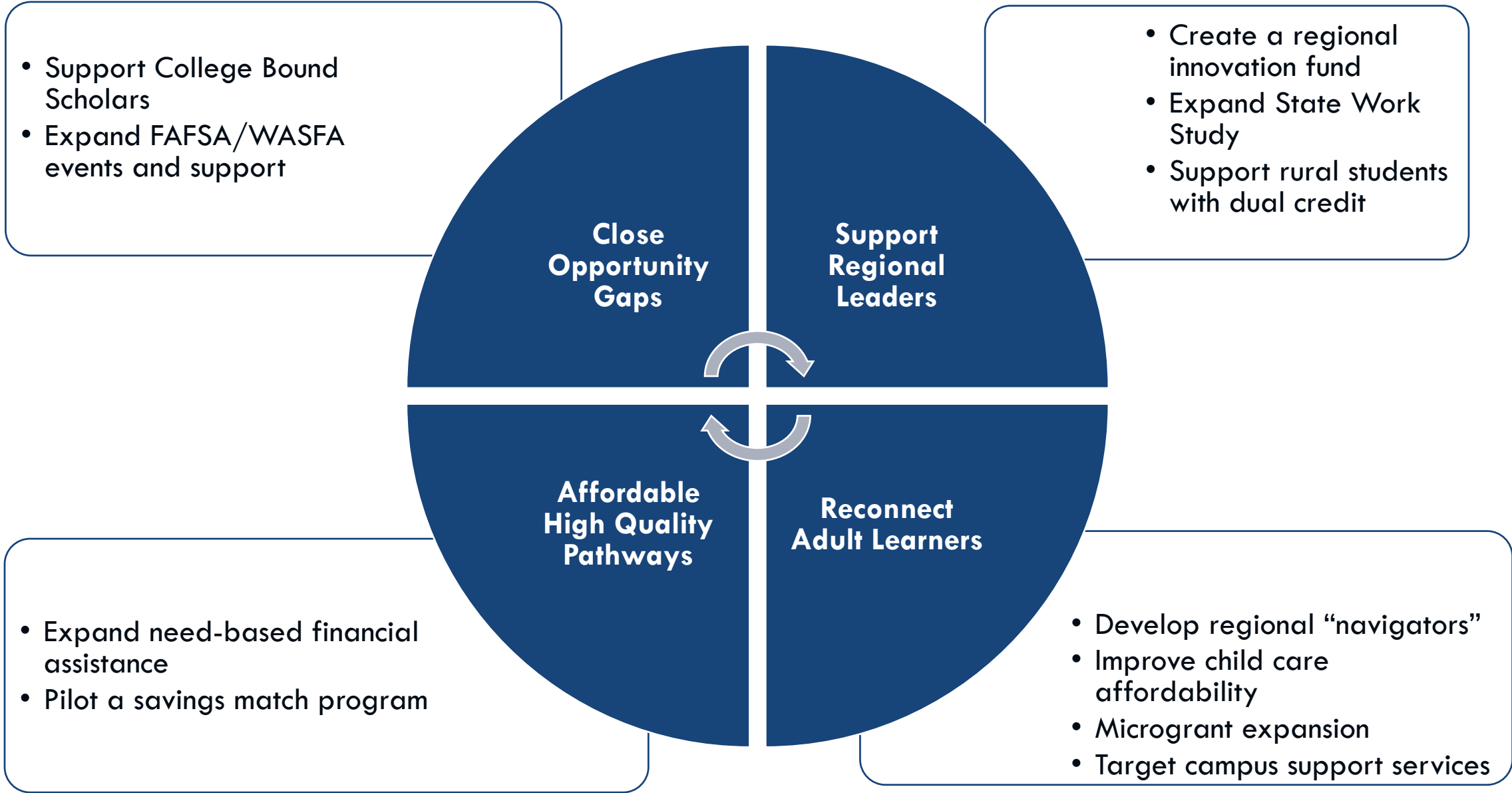
Roadmap Dashboard: www.wsac.wa.gov/roadmap/overview



Source: WSAC Roadmap Dashboard & IPEDS Fall Enrollment data from the U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS Completions, survey A data from the U.S. Department of Education

COUNCIL STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2019-21



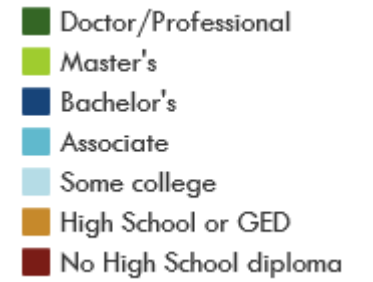


Key Challenge Areas

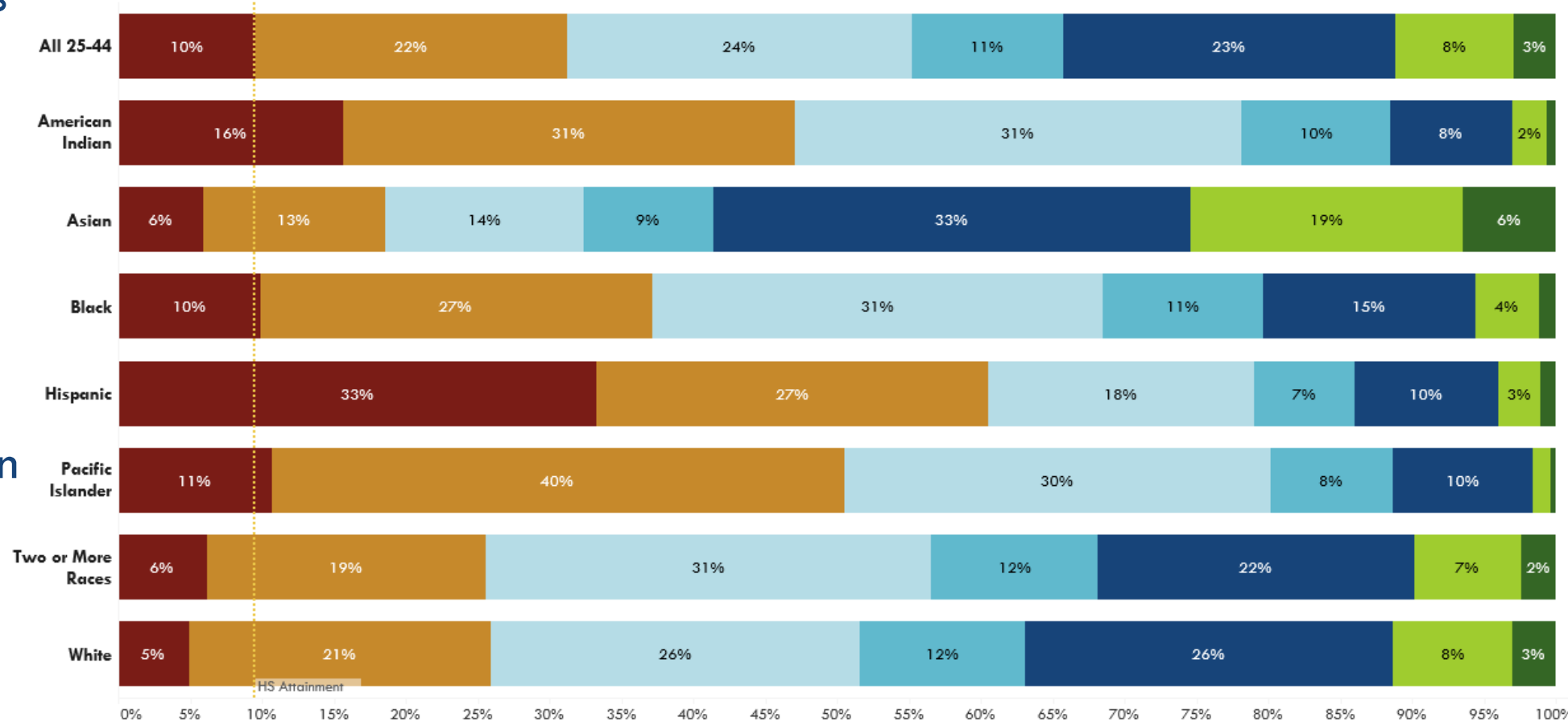
- Address system barriers for underserved students
- Provide support for underrepresented students throughout their academic career



Stark Attainment Gaps For Populations Of Color



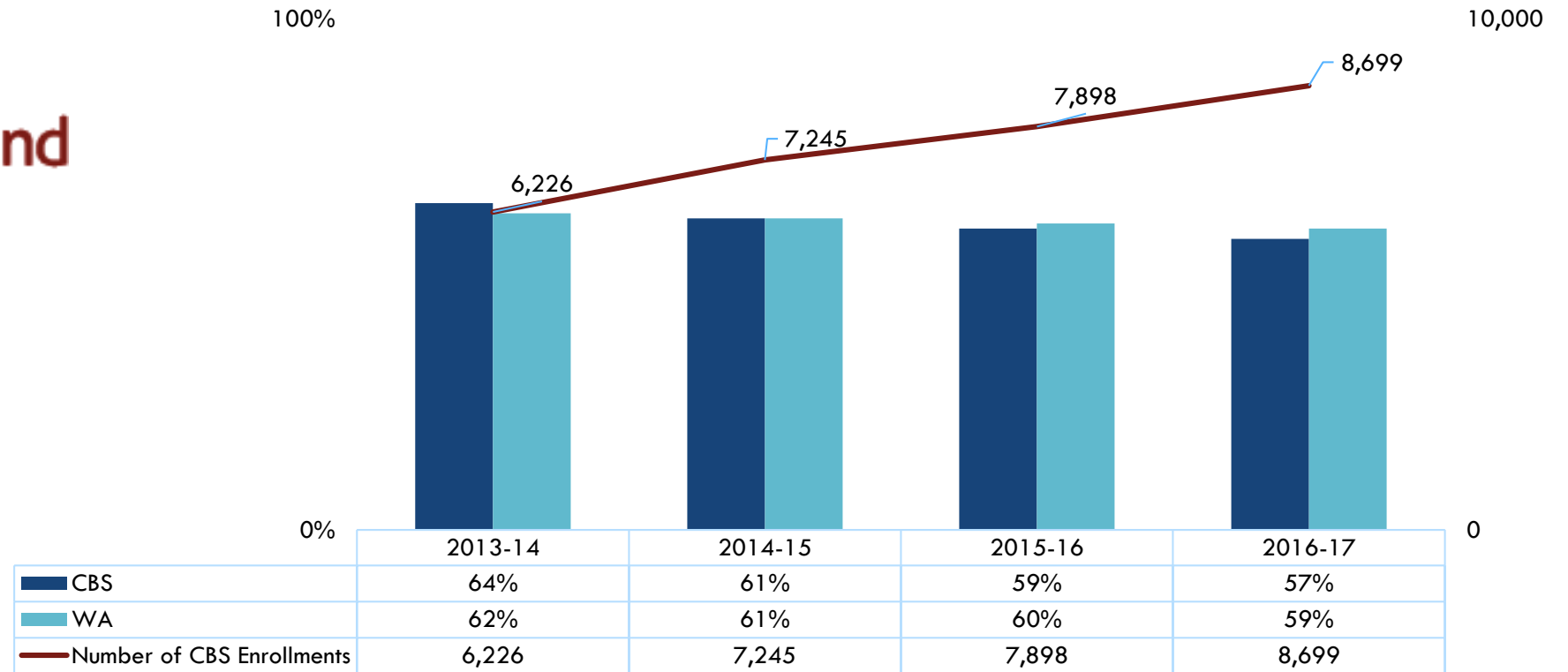
- Factors influencing the opportunity gaps are many and complex
- Gaps are exacerbated among low-income populations
- Statewide efforts can address equity disparity, including supporting collective efforts in a community



Source: WSAC Roadmap Dashboard & WSAC analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey, U.S. Census

Lower rates of college bound graduates are enrolling

Direct postsecondary enrollment rates of high school exit cohorts:
College Bound Scholars and Washington high school graduates



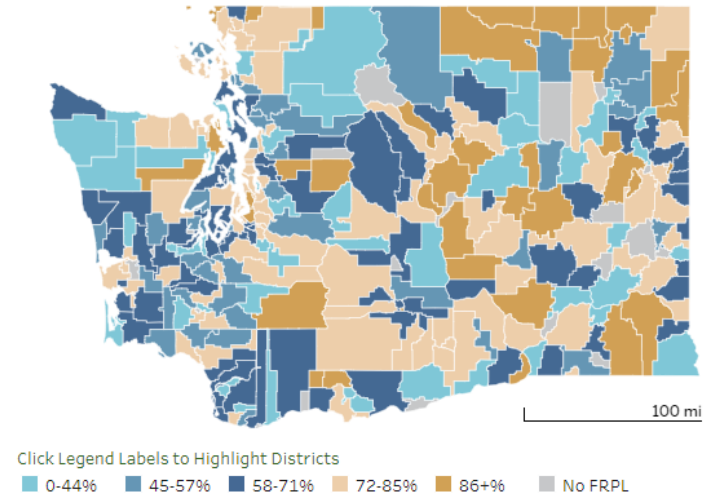
Source: Roadmap Dashboard & WSAC analysis of College Bound Sign-up data & Unite Record Report

Support college bound scholars

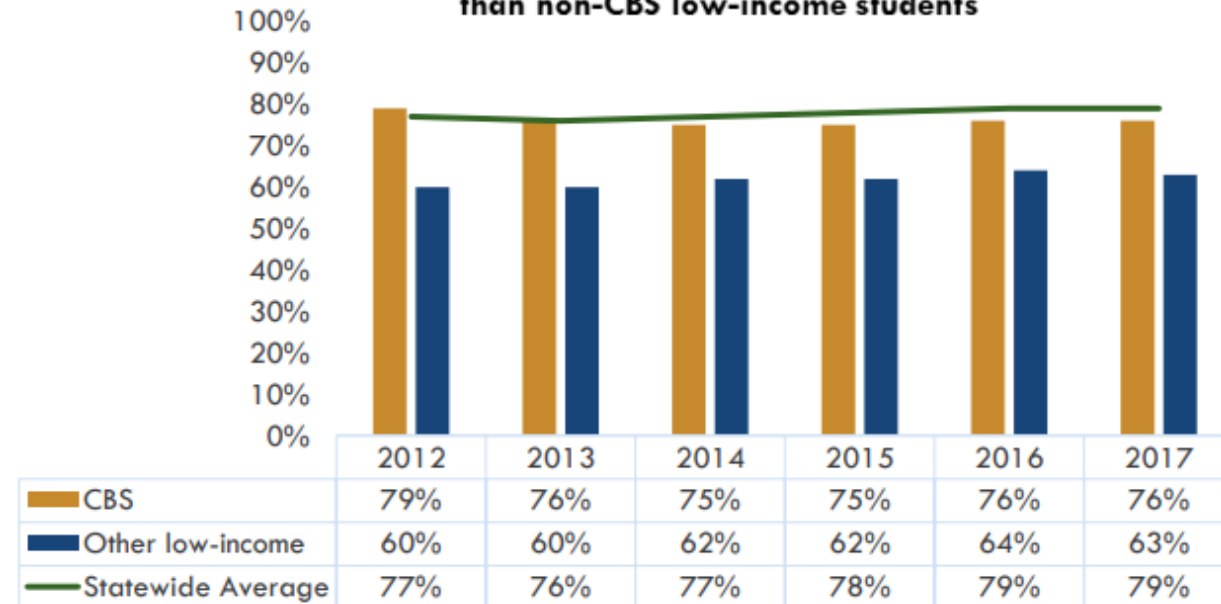
- Utilize digital platforms to communicate and support students in new and innovative ways
 - Pilot use of a variety of technical tools to provide timely, accurate and relevant information in an engaging format
 - Leverage the High School and Beyond Plan

- College Bound provides the tool to ensure students are planning and preparing for postsecondary education
- Of 300,000 CBS students, 175,000 in K12
- Every foster youth from 7th grade and through high school is automatically enrolled in the program
- Current communication efforts include mailers and listservs

Class of 2021 College Bound Scholarship Sign-up Rates



CBS students graduate from high school at higher rates than non-CBS low-income students

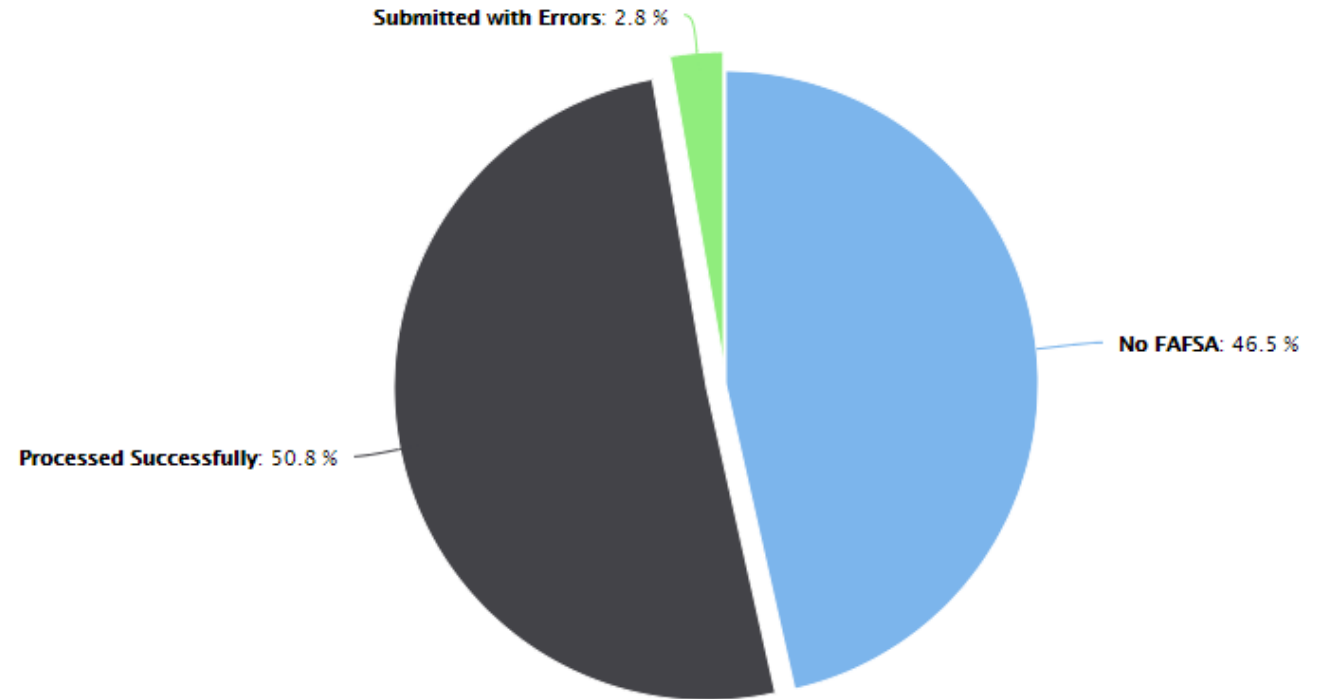


Only half of seniors are filing financial aid apps



WA Public HS Seniors FAFSA Completion 2017-18 (as of 6/18/18)

Seniors in 2017-2018 Academic Year:	78,272
<i>FAFSA Completion</i>	
Processed Successfully:	39,744
Submitted with Errors:	2,160
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Students with FAFSAs:	41,904

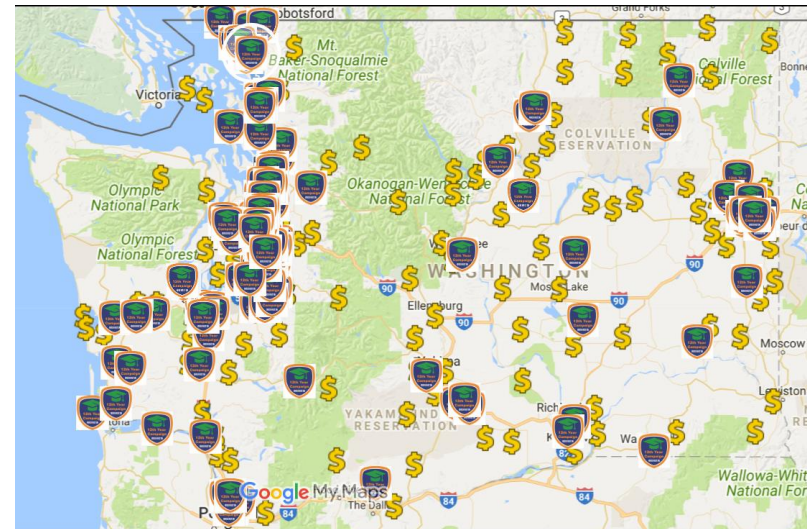


WSAC FAFSA Completion Portal bit.do/FAFSACompletionData. Free Application for Federal Student Aid Records for Washington State Administrative Data.

Expand financial aid assistance efforts

- Ensure all districts are utilizing the student-level FAFSA completion portal and are supporting students
- Expand filing and completion events in every region including incenting regional focused efforts
- Expand capacity for technical assistance for students with errors
- Support filers with quality and timely information about admissions and financial aid processes (FAFSA and WASFA)

- For the class of 2017, 54% of CBS graduates filed a FAFSA
- 95% of districts have access to the FAFSA portal – and need support to use it well
- WASFA applications have decreased
- Current efforts need continuation and expansion
 - Spring counselor workshops in partnership with OSPI and WCAN reached 500 attendees
 - Webinars and virtual assistance helps sites
 - 150 “12th year” sites held events this year



Ensure more students leave high school completing critical next steps

Students

31,666 signed up for CBS last year

47% of seniors did not complete a FAFSA last year

Equity

36% CBS are Latino (23% in K12)

Many Pell eligible students do not file applications

Partners

Middle/high schools, OSPI, CSF (WCAN)

Colleges, Districts, ESD, libraries and other organizations

Region

Opportunities vary by region

12th Year campaign local events

Innovation

1 of 3 states with an early promise program

Statewide data systems and sharing

Alignment

Heightened interest in readiness

State policies support (HSBP, dual credit)

Table discussion

- How can we improve and refine the proposed strategies?
- What other strategies should the Council endorse to reach the goals?
- Are there areas of alignment and opportunities for partnership?

Improve communication with College Bound Scholars

- Use digital tools for innovative and relevant support and information

Expand FAFSA/WASFA events and support

- Expand regional events
- Provide enhanced technical assistance

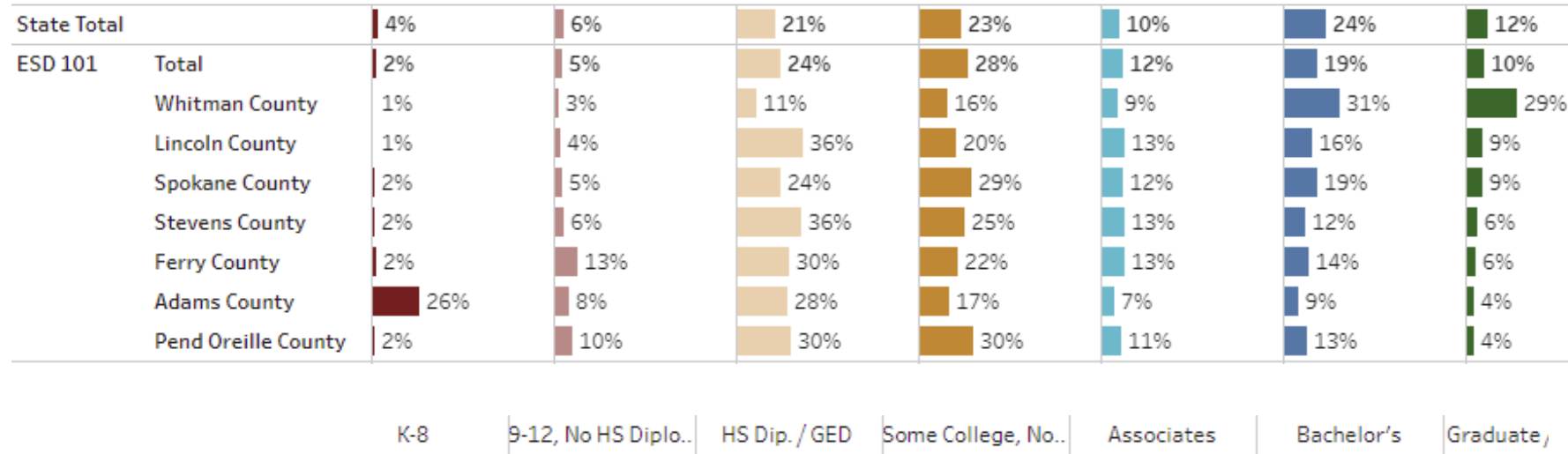
Key Challenge Areas

- Address system barriers for underserved students
- Provide support for underrepresented students throughout their academic career



- Address regional workforce shortages
- Engage and support communities

Northeastern wa attainment levels vary



- Attainment and median earnings within and among regions vary
- Regional strategies are different to address the unique needs in the area

Source: Roadmap Dashboard & WSAC analysis of 2012-2016 American Community Survey, U.S. Census

support regional leaders & employers

- Create a Fund for Innovation for promising regional initiatives
- Leverage partnerships to support regions with policy, program and practice
- Incent innovative practices and scale programs in regions with demonstrated commitment and success
- The fund would be flexible to permit a variety of approaches addressing the unique conditions in a region needed to increase attainment

- California's *Awards for Innovation* in Higher education is an example
- Local leaders understand their region and well-positioned to create solutions to respond to their community's needs

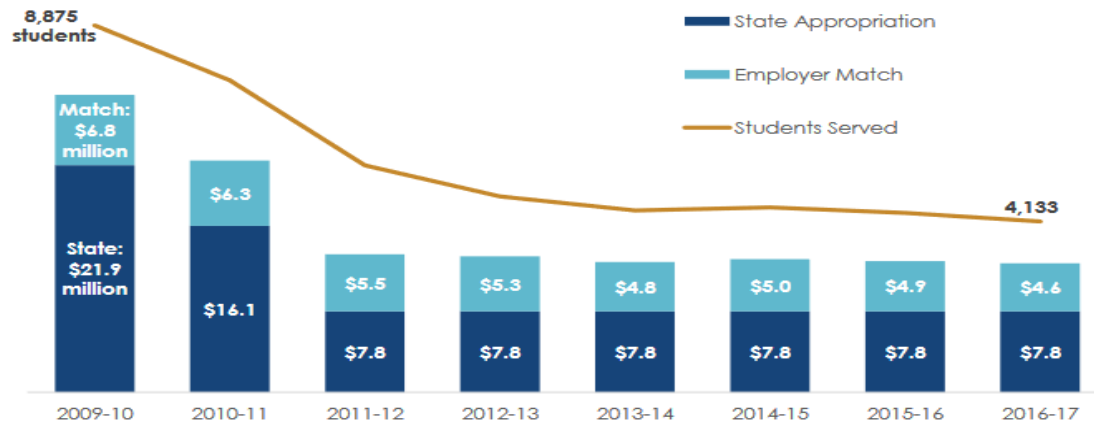


Expand subsidized career exploration opportunities

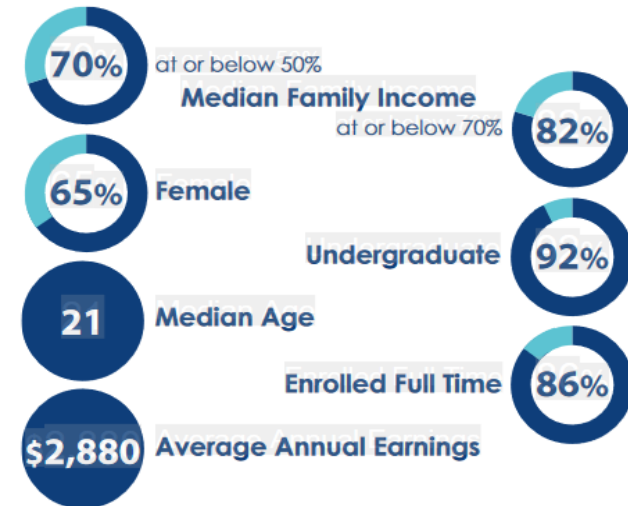
- Expand State Work Study to serve an additional 4,700 students
- Create a sub-program with lower employer match requirements to incent new employers in high demand fields to participate

- State Work Study is consistent with Career Connect Washington's emphasis on career exploration
 - Provides work-based learning opportunities and financial support to students with need
- Served over 4,100 students in 2017, with less than \$8 M in state appropriations
- Employer match adds to state effort and increases the impact of the program
- Students get work experience in their field of study

HISTORICAL FUNDING & SERVICE LEVELS



STATE WORK STUDY STUDENT PROFILE



Improve dual credit opportunities for rural students

Increase state subsidies for College in the high school to cover all program fees for students

- Fund all districts that apply
- Allow subsidies for up to 15 credits (from current 5 or 10)

- Colleges train *College in the High School* teachers, and collect fees from students enrolled in each course
- State created a subsidy model for CHS in 2015
 - Districts apply to OSPI for subsidies
 - First priority to high schools more than 20 miles from a Running Start campus
 - Second priority for small schools
 - Third priority is all schools with priority for high poverty schools
- Low-income student participation has increased since subsidies were introduced, but they remain below the statewide average

DUAL CREDIT FEES PAID FOR ALL STUDENTS

Student participation in dual credit courses is a new element of our performance framework and achievement index, and therefore, should be accessible for all of our students at no cost.

-Superintendent Reykdal's K-12 Education Vision

Students

21,830 students took at least one CHS course in 2017

Over 4,100 State Work Study students in 2017

Equity

Give all students the ability to take dual enrollment courses

Needy students build work experience and get financial aid

Partners

OSPI, SBCTC, ICW, COP

Forge new partnerships with local leaders

Region

High school graduation rates and college-going rates vary by region

CHS subsidies targeted at rural schools

Innovation

Identify and support regional efforts

CHS students earn college credit at their K-12 school

Alignment

Career Connect Washington

OSPI Vision statement

Table discussion

- How can we improve and refine the proposed strategies?
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Support regional leaders and employers

- Create regional innovation fund
- Evaluate regional programs

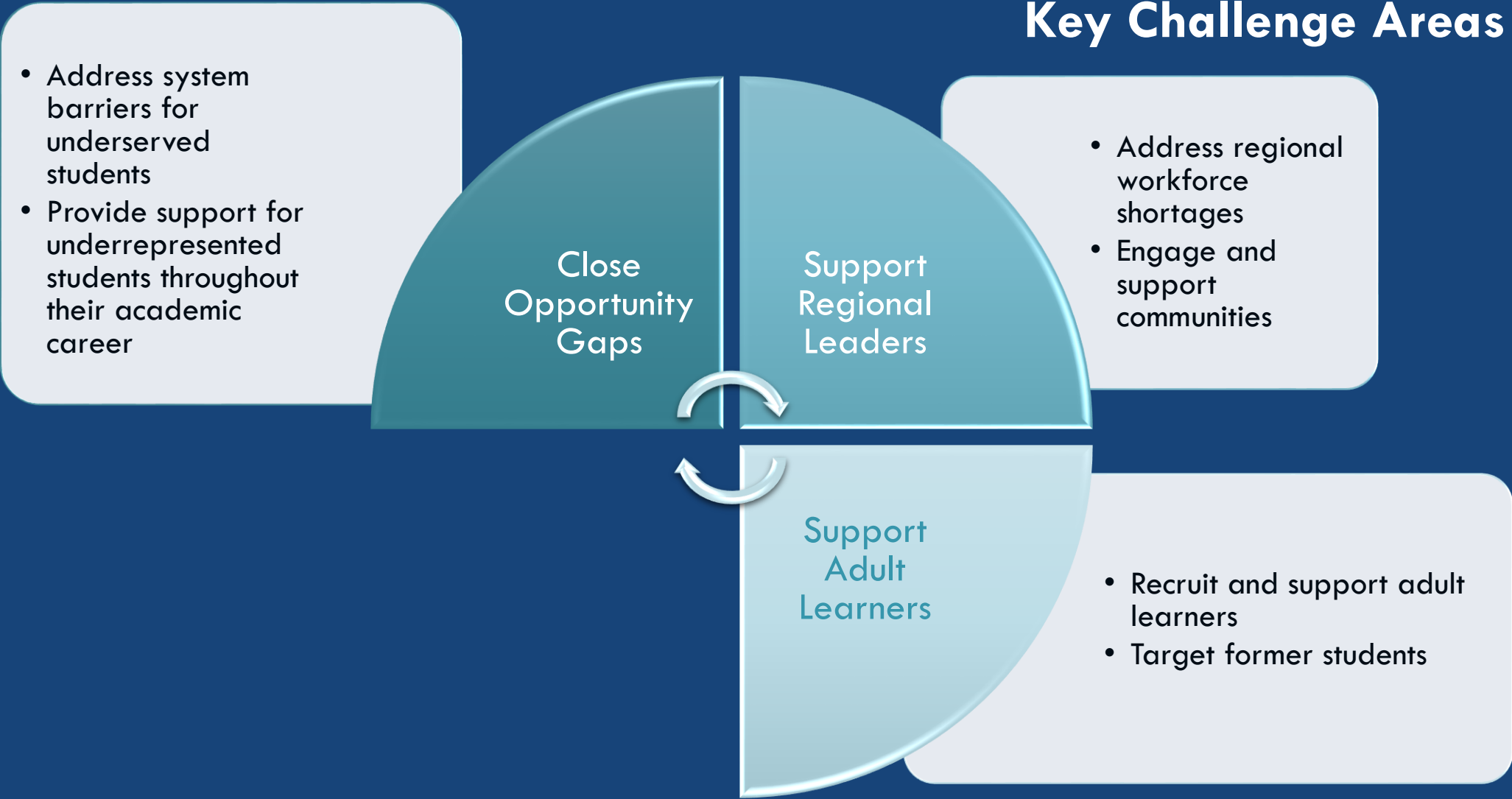
Expand Career Exploration Opportunities

- Increase State Work Study funding
- Provide low match-rate pool for STEM employers

Improve Dual Credit Options for Rural Students

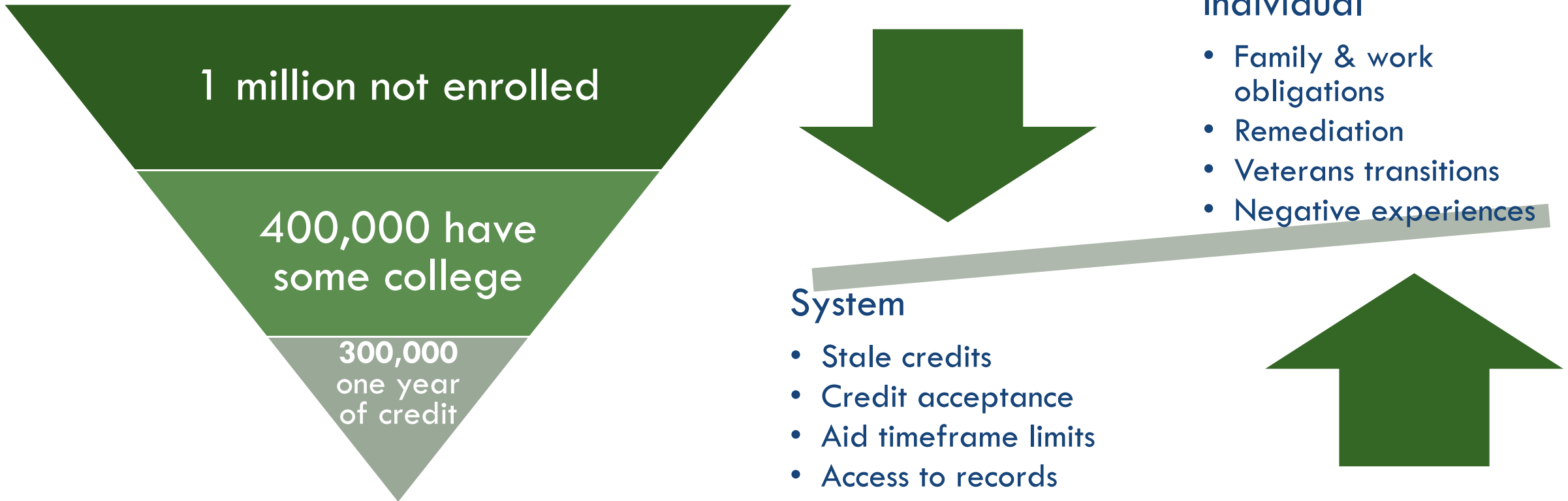
- Increase subsidies to cover fees for all College in the High School courses

Key Challenge Areas



2017 SAP: Develop a statewide adult reengagement framework

There is no statewide system to build awareness among adults and support their reconnection to training opportunities.

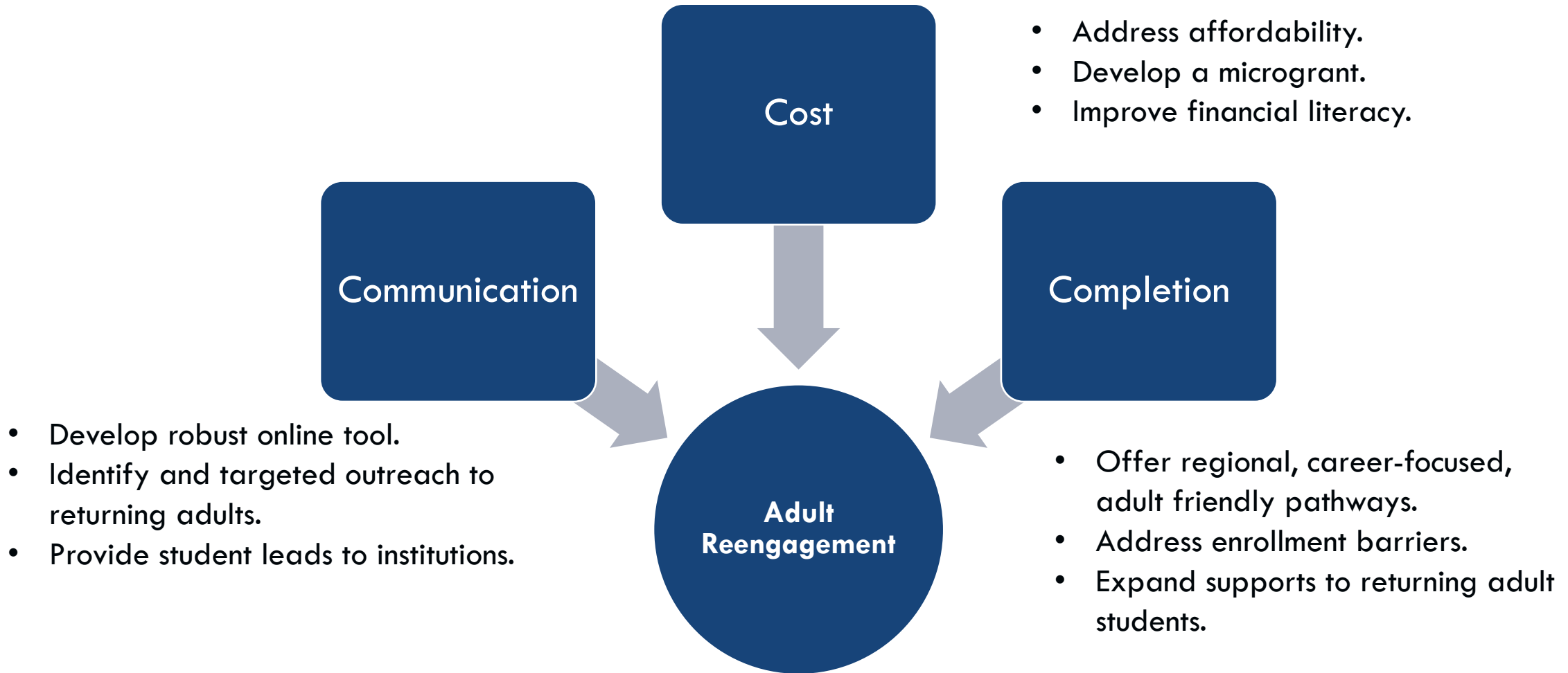


Source: Educational Attainment for WA Adults Ages 25-44 who have not attended school in the last 3 months, calculations from 2011-2015 American Community Survey

Many partners involved in the initiative



Comprehensive approach to serve adult learners



Support former adult learners

- Establish regional **navigators** providing community-based coaches and pre-enrollment support
- Expand **child care matching** grant program to include CTCs and serve additional student parents
- Expand **microgrant** pilot to address preenrollment barriers
- Support participating institutions with **incentive funding** to assess and develop adult-focused supports

- TN Reconnect, Greater Minds in Spokane, and other Graduate Network! Initiatives are successful examples of personalized supports to adult learners in a community.
- Former students sometimes have small dollar debts impeding their re-enrollment by holding transcripts or preventing enrollment (parking fees, library fine, etc.).
- The barriers that prevented completion previously may still exist and campuses can evaluate their “adult friendly” policies and practices.

Students

46,000 CTC students have children

300,000 former students with 1 year of credit

Equity

Returning adults are more at-risk of not completing

Single parents, Veterans, unemployed, etc.

Partners

Employers, GSI, WorkSource, Workforce Board, ESD

State collaborations

Region

Navigators would be best placed in regions

Regional messaging can highlight local efforts

Innovation

No other state is piloting a microgrant

Comprehensive supports beyond other states' approaches

Alignment

Reaching adult learners leverages state policies and local efforts

Campus-based supports returning students' success

Table discussion

- How can we improve and refine the proposed strategies?
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Develop Regional Navigators

- Partner with regional leaders to provide preenrollment coaching to adult learners

Expand Child Care matching grant

- Include all sectors
- Expand service to additional student parents

Fund a Microgrant pilot

- Work with institutions to fund or waive fines and fees

Incent Institutions to Expand Services

- Assess and augment “adult friendly” supports

Key Challenge Areas

- Address system barriers for underserved students
- Provide support for underrepresented students throughout their academic career



- Address regional workforce shortages
- Engage and support communities

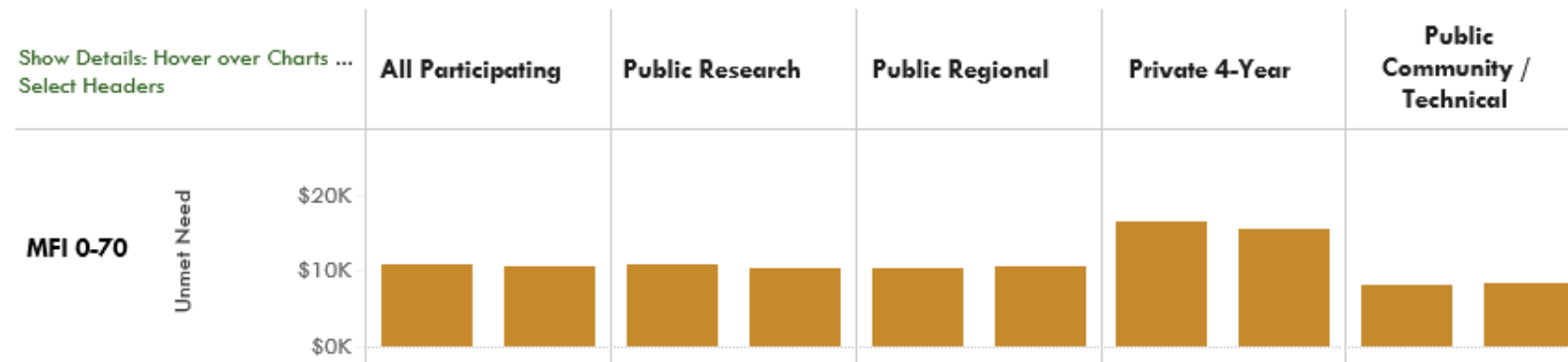
- Provide multiple high quality pathways
- Address financing gaps

- Recruit and support adult learners
- Target former students

Affordability gaps remain for low and middle income students

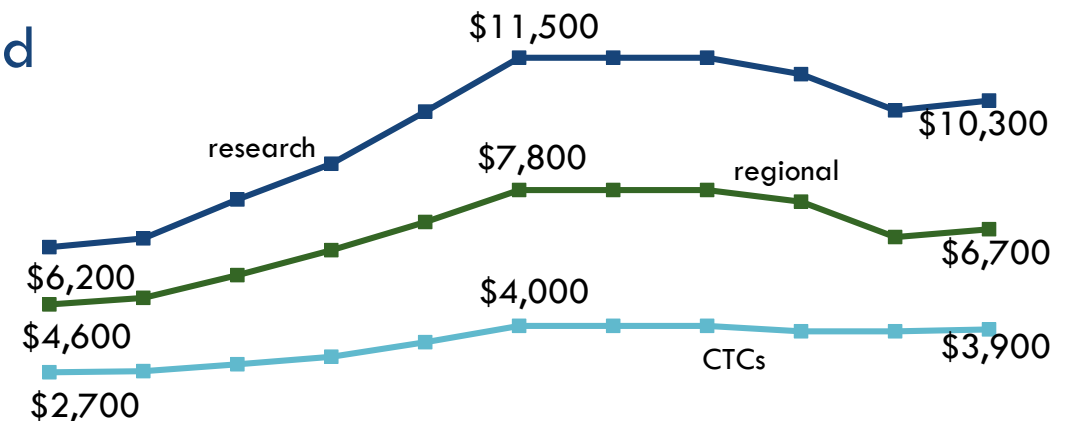
Average Unmet Need for Full-Time, Full Year, Resident Undergraduates by MFI and Sector

Unmet need = need amount minus total financial aid award excluding loans and work.



Resident Undergraduate Tuition Rates 2008-2018

- Recent state and institutional efforts have improved affordability, and yet gaps remain.
- Students face financial constraints as the primary deterrent to completion.



Source: Roadmap Dashboard & WSAC analysis of Final Reconciled Report, FAFSA data, and Unit Record Report data

Expand aid to low-income students

- Fulfill the legislative commitment to fully fund eligible State Need Grant students
- Expand program to serve more low/middle income students by raising the income eligibility threshold
- Ensure predictable funding for students by forecasting the State Need Grant program

- Variety of recent proposals to strengthen affordability and the State Need Grant
- New funding to serve 75% of the unserved by the end of 2019-21 biennium
- State Need Grant is a critical component of any last-dollar aid strategy, from local efforts like Seattle's initiative to a statewide effort like Evergreen Promise
- Full funding provides a simple, consistent message for all students
- Currently serves over 68,000 students, with over 23,000 additional students eligible, enrolled, but unserved

Develop Match programs incent families to save

- State would fund matching dollars to help low- and middle-income students save for college expenses, thereby reducing debt
 - Piloting the program would allow institutions to combine the program with their own interventions to see what makes the biggest impact

- Matched college savings programs have been piloted at several institutions and states, including Oregon
- An evaluation of Massachusetts' matched savings program found that low-income participants save 10% of their total monthly income
- Can address other affordability issues related to attendance
 - Food insecurity
 - Emergency expenses
- In Washington, the Independent Colleges of Washington have an MCSP program

Students

SNG serves about 70,000 students each year

1/4 of SNG recipients have children

Equity

Over 40% of SNG recipients are students of color

Full funding would give returning adults consistent message

Partners

SNG was a key priority of our higher education institutions

Asset Building Coalition

Region

SNG works with local Promise programs

Interest in savings match in regions from Bellingham to Tacoma

Innovation

Utilizing 529 plan may help lower per-participant costs for savings match

Leverage SNG

Alignment

Savings Match aligned with ICW's Matched College Savings program

SNG a statewide priority for many stakeholders

Table discussion

- How can we improve and refine the proposed strategies?
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Expand Need Based Aid

- Fully fund SNG program
- Extend income threshold
- Forecast the program

Match Programs Incent Families to Save

- Pilot a state matched savings incentive program

