

# Increasing the Number of Students Completing Financial Aid Applications

Joint Higher Education Work Group

January 13, 2019

## Goals

- To make progress towards achieving WSAC's Roadmap goal for 70% of the state's adults to earn a college credential
- To increase the number of Washingtonians going to college and earning credentials
- To increase the number of low income adults going to college with the support of financial aid
- To increase the number of people completing financial aid applications

## Purpose of the work group

Washington State has among the highest state investments in financial aid for low income students but one of the lowest financial aid application completion rates. A principle reason families fail to complete financial aid applications is that they need help filling out the applications.

The purpose of this work group is expand outreach to low income communities to inform them of opportunities to go to college with financial support, and to increase the number of people who can help low income families complete state and federal financial aid applications by providing training to college and university staff, who can in turn provide training to campus and community volunteers.

## Participants

- Washington State Student Achievement Council
- Independent Colleges of Washington
- Council of Presidents
- State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

## Timeline

October 2019	Identify work group participants
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Convene work group (SBCTC)</li><li>✓ Discuss purpose and goals, develop work plan</li><li>✓ Identify 6-8 regions that allow college and university participants to drive in for the half-day workshops (WSAC, SBCTC)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Skagit valley – Skagit Valley College</li><li>✓ Everett – Everett Community College</li><li>✓ Seattle – South Seattle College, Georgetown campus</li><li>✓ Pierce County – Clover Park Technical College</li><li>✓ Vancouver – WSU Vancouver</li><li>✓ Spokane – Gonzaga University</li><li>✓ Tri-Cities – Columbia Basin College</li></ul></li></ul>

December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identify host colleges/universities (SBCTC, WSAC)</li> <li>✓ Identify curriculum and training materials (WSAC)</li> <li>✓ Send regional workshop invitations to college and university chief student services officers and financial aid directors (COP, ICW, SBCTC)</li> <li>✓ Ask each college/university to identify lead staff who will train local campus and community ambassadors willing to help organize local community based financial aid application events and assist families with completing financial aid applications (colleges and universities)</li> </ul>
January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identify local college partners (college/university lead staff)</li> <li>• Identify target populations to engage (college/university lead staff)</li> <li>• Identify campus and community ambassadors to train (college/university lead staff)</li> </ul>
January 6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Send regional workshop registration information to college and university chief student services officers and financial aid directors (COP, ICW, SBCTC)</li> </ul>
January 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Work group conference call to check in on college/university sign-ups for regional workshops (SBCTC, work group members)</li> </ul>
January 27-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct regional workshops for college and university lead staff (WSAC)</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize and conduct local training for campus and community ambassadors (college/university lead staff)</li> </ul>
February-March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold local community based outreach events to help families complete financial aid applications (college and university lead staff, local ambassadors)</li> </ul>

# Financial Aid Train-the-Trainer Workshop

## Action Planning



### Workshop Information

**Name**

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**Workshop location**

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**Date**

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### Next Steps Train the Trainer Outline

<b>One immediate next step (within 1 week)</b>	
<b>3-5 next steps within next month</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5.</li> </ol>
<b>Partners in this work</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>
<b>To do this work, I need to ...</b>	
<b>Where can I go for help?</b>	

Participant:

I commit to supporting my community in financial aid application completion by training colleagues and partners and helping students and families navigate the financial aid process. I am not an expert, but I am a financial aid navigator!

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Accountability buddy:

I witness \_\_\_\_\_ committing to support financial aid in their community. I will check in with them in one month to see how their commitment is going. I will cheer them on toward supporting their goals!

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Helpful Follow-Up Resources</b>	
Your Campus Financial Aid Office	A friendly office near you!
FAFSA	<a href="https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa">https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa</a>
Federal Student Aid Resources	<a href="http://www.studentaid.gov">www.studentaid.gov</a>
FAFSA Demo Site	<a href="https://fafsademotest.ed.gov/webdemo.htm">https://fafsademotest.ed.gov/webdemo.htm</a>
WASFA	<a href="http://www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa">www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa</a>
Washington College Grant	<a href="http://www.wsac.wa.gov/pathways">www.wsac.wa.gov/pathways</a>
12th Year Campaign	<a href="http://www.readysetgrad.org/12thyear">www.readysetgrad.org/12thyear</a>