

WCG-A Guidance Memo

Dear Apprenticeship Sponsors,

We are happy to provide you with the official (final) 2022-23 Washington College Grant For Apprenticeship (WCG-A) award chart. The award charts will also be available in the 2022-2023 Washington College Grant For Apprenticeship (WCG-A) program manual. The program manual and award chart will be posted shortly on the Washington Student Achievement Council web site at <https://www.wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources>. We will send another email when it is posted.

Two primary 2022-23 WCG-A changes include and are only effective through 2022-23 AY:

- expansion of the maximum WCG-A grant Median Family Income (MFI) range from 0-55% to 0-60% MFI, and
- the creation of the Washington Bridge Grant.

The attached charts reflect that change including a “Bridge Grant” award of \$500 for some WCG-A recipients. Additional guidance regarding Bridge Grants is provided below. Please be aware these changes were not through statutory changes to the Washington College Grant (RCW 28B.92). Instead, they were passed through the legislative budget process and are included in the budget bill (ESSB 5693, Section 610(15) – Bridge Grant and Section 949 (2) – MFI level). At this time, it is implemented for 2022-23 AY. The legislature would need to take action for it to be effective beyond this year.

Passed Legislation - 2022-23 AY

Washington College Grant (including Apprentices)

- Maximum award MFI range expanded from 0-55% MFI to 0-60% MFI. All other MFI categories remain the same. (Budget Language, ESSB 5693, Section 949(2), p. 810)
- “Bridge Grant” of \$500 for students enrolled in at least 3 credits or more, who are eligible for and receiving the maximum 0-60% MFI WCG award who are not CBS eligible. (Budget Language, ESSB 5693, Section 610(15), p. 748)

Washington College Grant for Apprenticeship (E2SSB 5764)

- Section 1 – aligns the maximum Washington College Grant for Apprenticeship (WCG-A) award to the maximum award amount for WCG at community and technical colleges (CTC).
- Section 2 – Indicates intent for apprentices who receive related supplemental instruction through a CTC to be awarded WCG-A by the CTC. Requires SBCTC to implement fully by 2025-26 AY. SBCTC to collaborate with WSAC to create a student IT interface.
- Section 3 – requires WSAC to contract with the William D. Ruckelshaus Center to conduct research. Some of the research includes (but this is not a complete list): evaluate paths to credential for apprentices, examine national best practices to award education credentials to apprentices, research apprentices’ demand for degrees, review the current funding model within the CTC system, identify and remove barriers for apprentices to receive WCG-A.
- Section 4 – Four-year public colleges must establish a policy for granting as many credits as possible for related supplemental instruction by the 2028-29 AY.

Residency (ESSB 5874)

The primary change to residency is for public tuition purposes only. However, there is a change related to state aid in that the year prior to admission must be “primarily for purposes other than postsecondary education” to be considered a resident. Additional guidance is forthcoming from WSAC to residency officers and financial aid administrators.

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/Sponsors 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/payment period or \$250 per semester/payment period), whichever is in the best interest of the student.
- Professional judgement decisions to award in a manner different than the institutional/sponsor’s awarding policy are acceptable but must be documented.
- The \$500 is an annual award and is cumulative for all colleges/apprenticeship programs—meaning there will be edits in the portal for confirming if the student/apprentice 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/sponsor does a per term award, they will not be required to retroactively award funds to a student/apprentice who fails to enroll in all terms.
- We are advising colleges/sponsors 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 and apprenticeship programs.

Apprenticeship Award Chart for 2022-2023

2022-23 WCG-A and WA Bridge Grant Amounts						
Number of Payments per Year*	Median Family Income					
	0% - 60% WA Bridge Grant**	0% - 60% (full award)	61% - 65% (60% of full award)	66% - 70% (50% of full award)	71% - 75% (25% of full award)	76% - 100% (10% of full award)
3	\$500	\$4,466	\$2,680	\$2,233	\$1,116	\$447
2	\$500	\$2,977	\$1,786	\$1,489	\$744	\$298
1	\$500	\$1,489	\$893	\$745	\$372	\$149