



# Regional Challenge Grant Legislative Report on Expenditures

December 2022

## Legislative Background

Passed in 2022, Senate Bill 5789 established the *Washington Career and College Pathways Innovative Challenge Program*, a \$6 million investment that creates competitive grants for existing and new community-based career and college pathways partnerships to increase postsecondary enrollment rates and close opportunity gaps. SB 5789 supports the state’s postsecondary attainment goal of 70 percent, providing an opportunity for cross-sector regionally based partnerships to address Washington’s current enrollment crisis. Cross sector collaborations can include Community Based Organizations, K-12 Education, Higher Education Institutions, Labor Unions and more. For more information regarding the legislative background of the Regional Challenge Grant, please see our most recent Legislative Report: [https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/FINAL%20-%202022.RCG\\_LegislativeReport.pdf](https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/FINAL%20-%202022.RCG_LegislativeReport.pdf)

## Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

Of the \$6 million appropriated in FY23 for the for the implementation of Senate Bill 5789, Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) will grant up to \$5.1M in awards in the 2023 Fiscal Year. Expenditures in addition to grant awards include the hiring of three full-time staff members, the execution of external contracts and the implementation communities of practice.

### 2023 Fiscal Year to Date Budget

| Item  | Amount           |
|---|------------------|
| Appropriation   | \$6,000,000      |
| Regional Challenge Grant Tier 1 and Tier 2 Awardees December 2022     | - \$4,600,000    |
| Hold for Additional Tier 1 Partnership Formation Grants February 2023 | - \$500,000      |
| Staffing  | - \$467,000      |
| Community of Practice and Other Support Costs                         | - \$300,000      |
| <b>Total Remaining</b>  | <b>\$133,000</b> |

## Regional Challenge Grant Awardee Committed Funding

In the first year of the Regional Challenge Grant, WSAC received 80 total applications, 40 for each tier, totaling \$69.4 million in requested funds over the grant period. Two tiers of grants are awarded in the Regional Challenge Grant. Much of the investment is dedicated to the Implementation grant tier, comprised of 1.5-year terms with a significant investment awarded to already established partnerships working to increase postsecondary attainment. The second tier is comprised of early-stage partnership formations that are one year in length and are awarded up to \$125,000. The Council has given approval for WSAC to move forward in negotiations with four Implementation and two Partnership Formation

grantees. Negotiations with awardees will begin in 2023 with work starting shortly thereafter. Of the \$5.1M that WSAC is committed to for Regional Challenge Grant awardees, it is allocated as:

- Up to \$4.35 million to award the four, Tier Two Implementation Grants approved by Council
- Up to \$250,000 to award two Tier One Partnership Formation Grants approved by Council
- Up to \$500,000 to award additional Tier One Partnership Formation Grants, pending approval by Council in February 2023

## About the Washington Student Achievement Council

The Washington Student Achievement Council is committed to increasing educational opportunities and attainment in Washington. The Council has three main functions:

- Lead statewide strategic planning to increase educational attainment.
- Administer programs that help people access and pay for college.
- Advocate for the economic, social, and civic benefits of higher education.

The Council has ten members. Four members represent each of Washington's major education sectors: four-year public baccalaureates, four-year private colleges, public community and technical colleges, and K-12 public schools. Six are citizen members, including two current students (one graduate student and one undergraduate student).

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format, please contact the Washington Student Achievement Council at:

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