

**LEARN Community of Practice Kick-Off**  
*Local Education Adult Resource Network*

November 5, 2024  
12:00 – 1:30 PM

**Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Sharing: In-person convening
3. Learning: Postsecondary Basic Needs Presentation & Panel
4. Engaging: Small group discussion
5. Wrap Up

**Meeting Schedule**

Monthly, 90 minutes from 12:00 – 1:30 PM

- December 10, 2024
- January 14, 2025
- February 11, 2025
- March 11, 2025
- April 8, 2025
- May 13, 2025
- June 10, 2025

Information: <https://wsac.wa.gov/LEARN>

Contact: [AdultPathways@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:AdultPathways@wsac.wa.gov)

## **LEARN Session #4 – November 5 Session Themes**

### **In-Person Convening: Save the Date – March 11, 2025**

- Greater Seattle Area

### **Washington Postsecondary Basic Needs Security Presentation**

- Basic Needs Survey Findings Report:  
<https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023.BasicNeedsReport.pdf>
  - 1 in 2 students reported experiencing insecurity in food and housing in the prior year.
  - Basic Needs Security: Parenting Students
    - 2 in 3 parenting students reported that they were unable to afford childcare.
- 2023 Statewide Postsecondary Basic Needs Legislation
  - Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness Grant Program
    - Services to students who are experiencing homelessness or have aged out of foster care
  - Postsecondary Basic Needs Act
    - Basic needs navigators
    - Strategic planning
    - Assessment of basic needs security
    - Food security pilot
- Strategies to Address Postsecondary Basic Needs Insecurity
  - Emergency Strategies
    - Pantries/cupboards/baskets of granola bars
    - Emergency funds
    - Homeless shelters, motel vouchers
  - Proactive/Preventative Strategies
    - Access to benefits like SNAP, childcare subsidies, housing, and healthcare
    - Affordable housing
- Funding to cover cost of attendance

## **Student and Apprentice Support Panel Themes**

### ***Meeting Basic Needs First***

- Addressing individuals' foundational needs aligns with Maslow's hierarchy, prioritizing essentials such as food, shelter, and hygiene before academic success can be achieved.
- Financial assistance is often used to cover basic necessities like food, clothing, and hygiene products.
- Examples include resource cupboards, hygiene and laundry cards, and partnerships with food banks to ensure students and apprentices can access essential supports.

### ***Flexible Financial Assistance***

- Offering adaptable financial aid that can be used for a variety of basic needs helps raise economic security for students and apprentices.
- Utilizing workforce infrastructure to disburse funds directly to participants demonstrates a model for economic empowerment.

### ***Emergency and Immediate Support Systems***

- Programs are implementing rapid-response services to address crises, such as hiring dedicated service specialists and creating online tools for accessing resources.
- Emergency funding mechanisms help students and apprentices overcome immediate barriers to persistence and completion.

### ***Community Partnerships and Resource Integration***

- Building partnerships with organizations like food banks and community service providers creates a comprehensive support system for students and apprentices.
- Events such as "Community Campus Connect" bring resources directly to campuses, ensuring accessibility and engagement.

### ***Tailored Support for Unique Challenges***

- Recognizing the specific needs of adult learners and apprentices, such as balancing work, education, and life challenges.
- Providing targeted supports like workwear and hygiene items directly related to their fields and circumstances.

***Student and Apprentice-Centered and Trust-Based Approaches***

- Importance of meeting students and apprentices where they are, offering resources in non-stigmatizing and accessible ways (e.g., grab-and-go food systems).
- Trust-based initiatives foster a welcoming and supportive environment for students and apprentices facing difficult circumstances.

***Sustainability Through Program Evaluation***

- Evaluating programs and building a data-driven case over time is crucial to securing ongoing support and scaling effective models.
- Understanding systemic structures helps identify opportunities to enhance and sustain support services.



# Local Education Adult Resource Network (LEARN) Community of Practice

November 5, 2024





# Agenda

- In-person Convening
- Postsecondary Basic Needs Presentation
- Student and Apprentice Supports Panel
- Small Group Discussion with Panelists
- Wrap Up



# In-Person Convening: Save the date: March 11





# Washington Postsecondary Basic Needs Security

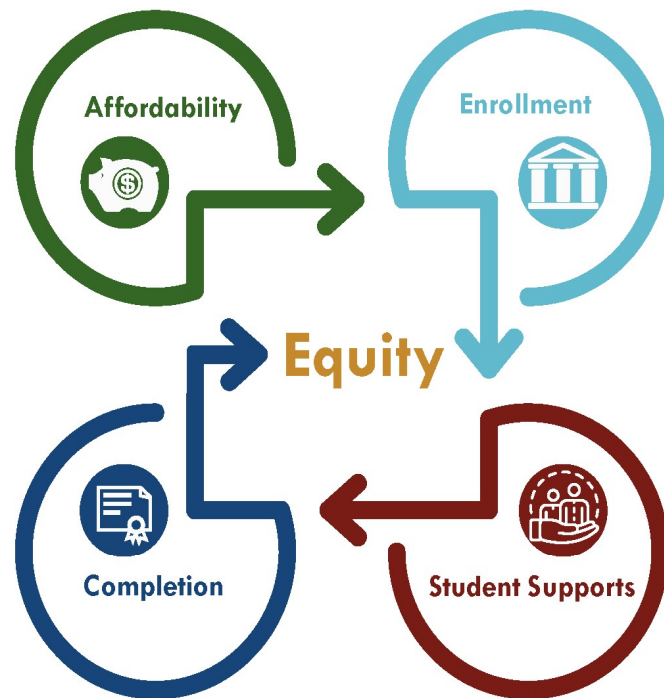
*Ami Magisos*

*WSAC Associate Director Strategy & Partnerships*

*[Amim@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:Amim@wsac.wa.gov)*



**Everyone** needs some kind of education beyond high school.



If we build an **affordable** and **supportive** educational environment, more Washingtonians will **enroll** in programs and **complete** credentials.

***Access to basic needs should not be a barrier for Washington residents seeking a postsecondary credential.***

Basic needs encompass access to **affordable housing, sufficient food, quality childcare, mental healthcare, and other needs.**

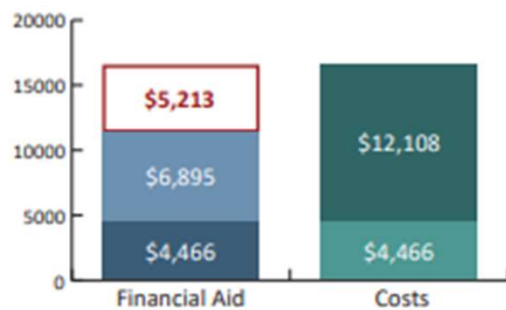


# Basic needs and affordability

**At community and technical colleges, there is a large gap of unmet need for students from low-income backgrounds**

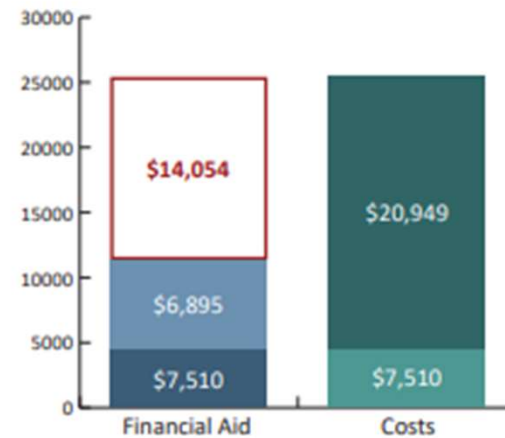
Community or technical college,  
living with parents

**Unmet need: \$5,213 (31%)**



Community or technical college,  
living independently

**Unmet need: \$14,054 (55%)**



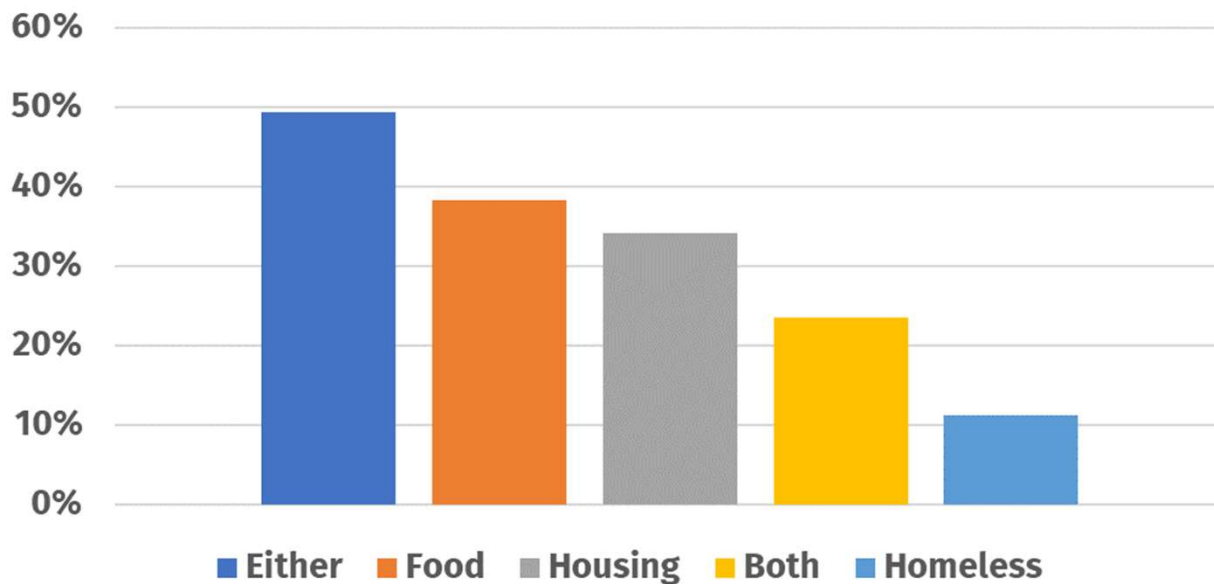
- Unmet Need
- Pell Grant
- WA Grant
- Non-Tuition
- Tuition

Cost numbers are for the 2022–23 academic year, as calculated by the Washington Financial Aid Association.



# Insights on basic needs insecurity in Washington

## Overall insecurity rates amongst respondents:



**49%** of respondents experienced *either food insecurity or housing insecurity*

**38%** of respondents experienced *food insecurity* in the last 30 days

**34%** of respondents experienced *housing insecurity* in the last 12 months

**24%** of respondents experienced *both food insecurity and housing insecurity*

**11%** of respondents experienced *homelessness* in the last 12 months



# Basic Needs Security: Parenting Students



Food Insecurity  
43.3% (+8 percentage points)



Housing Insecurity  
51.7% (+17.5 percentage points)

Homelessness  
15.1% (+4 percentage points)

**Either: 61.1%**  
(+12 percentage points)

**Both: 37.5%**  
(+14 percentage points)



**2 in 3 unable to afford needed childcare**  
(71.1% CTCs / 57.3% baccalaureates)

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council <https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023.BasicNeedsReport.pdf>



## Are students accessing resources?

**Less than half of students experiencing insecurity accessed basic needs support resources in the prior 6 months.**

**48.9% accessed  
public resources**

**33.7% accessed  
campus resources**

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council <https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023.BasicNeedsReport.pdf>



## 2023 statewide postsecondary basic needs legislation

### ***Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness grant program***

- Services to students who are experiencing homelessness or have aged out of foster care
- Pilot → permanent for publics

### **Postsecondary Basic Needs Act**

- Basic needs navigators
- Strategic planning
- Assessment of basic needs security
- Food security pilot



## What's on the horizon?

### Knowledge development

2024 WA basic needs survey

Parenting students

Food security pilot

### Policy and practice

Outreach innovations

Affordable housing partnerships

Reducing barriers to benefits for students



# How to address postsecondary basic needs insecurity?

## Emergency strategies:

**Why:** Immediate aid to address unexpected needs can return students to stability and persistence

**Examples:**

- Pantries/cupboards/ basket of granola bars
- Emergency funds
- Homeless shelter, motel vouchers

**Vision:** All postsecondary students have access to resources to address emergencies

## Proactive/preventative strategies:

**Why:** Promote longer-term solutions for stability when foundational needs for Cost of Attendance are unstable

**Examples:**

- Access to benefits like SNAP, childcare subsidies, housing, healthcare
- Affordable housing accessible to students
- Funding to cover actual cost of attendance

**Vision:** All postsecondary students have access to funds and resources for basic needs stability through their credential attainment.





# Panel Discussion: Student & Apprentice Supports



Gyanendra Subba



Karen Dove



Shana Peschek



Zack Reiber



## Small Group Networking, 20 minutes

- You will select the breakout room you want to attend.
- This is *networking*. You will not have a dedicated facilitator.
- You can move to different rooms at any time, as many times as you want.
- Use the first few minutes for introductions, or be sure to introduce yourself as you participate.
  - Who are you? What type of work do you do?

### **Breakout Rooms**

- Shana Peschek, Machinists Institute
- Karen Dove, ANEW
- Gyanendra Subba, Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County
- Zack Reiber, Spokane Falls CC



## Wrap Up

- Next session – December 10
  - Northwest Education Access Presentation – Sound Reengagement Collaborative

Contact email: [adultpathways@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:adultpathways@wsac.wa.gov)

Website: [www.wsac.wa.gov/LEARN](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/LEARN)

## **LEARN Panel Discussion: Student & Apprenticeship Supports**

### **Panelist Bios**

#### **Gyanendra Subba**

Gyanendra is a seasoned workforce development professional with over 10 years of experience in direct service, research, evaluation, policy, and management. As a project manager at the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County (WDC), he oversees various contracts, including WIOA Adult, Economic Security for All (EcSA), BFET, Ticket to Work, and Reentry programs. He also serves on the board of the New American Alliance for Policy & Research, highlighting his commitment to supporting vulnerable communities. With prior roles at the Seattle Housing Authority, Refugee Women's Alliance, and the Nonprofit Assistance Center, Gyanendra has honed his expertise in addressing the needs of marginalized groups. He holds an undergraduate degree in Physics, an MBA from Seattle University, a certificate in Social Impact Strategy from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Public Leadership Credential from Harvard Kennedy School. Currently, he is pursuing an MS in Applied Economics at the University of North Dakota, showing his passion for lifelong learning and understanding the needs of adult learners.

#### **Karen Dove**

Karen's role as Executive Director is to plan and execute the overall strategic and operational responsibility for ANEW's staff, programs, expansion, and execution of its mission. Karen came to ANEW from Montana where she led programs and advocated for policies focused on building economic security for all. Karen is a dedicated servant leader and has a passion for social justice issues. Karen is committed to developing collaborative partnerships resulting in systemic change. Throughout her career, she has utilized her entrepreneurial spirit and skills to create and implement new and innovative programs aimed at moving people toward family wage jobs. Karen is a published author and when not serving her community, she likes to spend time on the beach. She counts her three children as her proudest accomplishments.

#### **Shana Peschek**

As Executive Director of the Machinists Institute, Shana is leading the vision to build a better future for aerospace, manufacturing, and machinist workers across Washington state through dedication to excellence in recruitment, education, and training. The institute delivers programs on multiple levels of education and training including pre-employment, registered apprenticeship, certifications, and more. In her previous role, Shana spent 11 years as a leader in supporting the building and construction education and training programs across the state. Shana has also been active nationally, on the National Skills Coalition Work based Learning Advisory Board, Tradeswomen Task Force, as well as a member of

numerous statewide association boards, K20 advisory boards, and workforce focused committees. When not working she enjoys hiking, backpacking and mountain biking with her husband and three sons and spending time with her 5 grandchildren.

**Zack Reiber**

Zack is the Basic Needs Navigator and Designated Support Staff for Passport to Careers at Spokane Falls Community College. He holds a master's in Organizational Leadership with a concentration in Servant Leadership from Gonzaga University. Prior to working at the college, Zack worked for 6 years at Lutheran Community Services NW as a caseworker and supervisor for the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Foster Care program. He is passionate about serving others and helping to meet individuals and families where they are at to provide them the services they need to thrive. Zack is the Basic Needs Navigator and Designated Support Staff for Passport to Careers at Spokane Falls Community College. He holds a master's in Organizational Leadership with a concentration in Servant Leadership from Gonzaga University.