

Partnership Name:

Shoreline College & Community Basic Needs Collaboration

Application Point of Contact:

Savena Garrett

Fiscal Agent:

Shoreline Community College

1. Why are the partner organizations that are or will be included in this work the ones that came together to address educational attainment through place-based work in your region?

Each of the partners in this project has an established history of successfully supporting our target population in meeting basic needs. This project is driven by a mission to meet the basic needs of Shoreline Community College students so that they can achieve their educational goals and proceed onto successful career pathways. Challenges such as housing or food insecurity are significant barriers to students' retention and completion of educational programs, and there is a critical and growing need for support in these areas for our students. This partnership brings together a population with significant identified needs, a hub organization with the infrastructure to coordinate the project, and community partners who specialize in providing critical services. While the College does have existing relationships with these partners, this project seeks to formalize and organize these services in a new and strategic way, serving many more students and improving and centralizing the administration of services.

Shoreline Community College (SCC): SCC will serve as the hub for this partnership and will collaborate closely with partners that specialize in a range of basic needs services. SCC has existing relationships with these partners, and SCC staff are in direct, frequent contact with both the partners and the target students. At SCC, regardless of where a student begins their connection to the college, support efforts are coordinated. Staff representing various entry points work with students who need support, actively listen to the student's situation through an equity lens and determine the most critical needs. Staff then triage the student, determine eligibility for various support services, do a warm hand-off to internal stakeholders, and/or provide a referral to external community partners. Therefore, SCC is well-positioned to be the bridge between students and services, as well as the locus of organization for the partnership.

Neighborhood House: Neighborhood House is the housing element of this partnership. Neighborhood House will use grant funds to provide students with various types of housing assistance for students who are homeless or fleeing domestic violence, including rent, application fees, move-in fees, past housing debt, collections, driver's license fees, or car repairs. SCC's Benefits Hub staff do a warm handoff to navigators from Neighborhood House. They currently use the Apricot system to track student case notes, referrals, and other student data. Because SCC currently partners with Neighborhood House for housing support, they are the logical choice for the housing partner in this project.

Farmer Frog: Farmer Frog is the food element of this partnership. Farmer Frog supports over a dozen school gardens in the state, works with several sites in urban and rural communities, and is developing several farms. SCC currently partners with Farmer Frog to receive deliveries of fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs, soups, bread, meats, perishables and other culturally appropriate foods. They strategically select food for SCC students based on what they receive at their farm. Farmer Frog has also provided hygiene items for the SCC Benefits Hub. Because of this existing connection, and the variety of foods they can provide, Farmer Frog is the logical choice for the food support partner in this project.

International Community Health Services (ICHS): ICHS is the health support element of this partnership. ICHS operates a clinic just 1.5 miles from SCC, serving the same area and population as the College. This is a new and developing partnership, and to date ICHS has collaborated with SCC to provide sexual health education, STI testing, and resources through on-campus drop-in sessions. For this project, ICHS will work with SCC's Gender Equity Center to provide a range of healthcare products, educational workshops, and services. ICHS will be an important partner in our efforts to develop a holistic, comprehensive approach to addressing students' needs.

United Way of King County (UWKC): UWKC will provide a range of additional services and resources for the project, including technical assistance and data tracking. The partnership can also draw

on their strong community connections and networks. SCC and UWKC have an established history of collaboration, and UWKC is deeply connected to the SCC service area, making them a valuable member of this partnership.

2. How is or will the partnership be structured?

The hub of this partnership will be at Shoreline Community College, and the project will create, facilitate, and strengthen connections between SCC students and community organizations providing various types of basic needs support.

Lead Partner: Shoreline Community College. SCC is the anchor partner and hub for this project, leveraging SCC's infrastructure and student support services. SCC staff will identify students and connect them with resources and support either on campus or through external partners. SCC will be the fiscal agent for the project, with the SCC Budget Office handling the grant financials. SCC staff will also be involved in tracking student participation in these services. SCC will create a Cultural & Identity Center, a space where multiple student service centers are co-located on campus, including the Multicultural Center, Gender Equity Center, and WAVES Center. This effort will create community and a sense of belonging, especially for BIPOC and QTPOC students. The new center will be near the Benefits Hub food pantry so staff can easily do a warm handoff for students seeking basic needs support.

Housing: Neighborhood House. SCC has an existing partnership with Neighborhood House, which will be expanded upon for this project. SCC will identify students with housing needs and connect them with Neighborhood House. Neighborhood House will then work directly with students to customize services, identify each student's housing status, barriers, and income/debt, and secure appropriate housing support.

Food: Farmer Frog. SCC has an existing partnership with Farmer Frog, which will be enhanced through this project. Farmer Frog will deliver fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy, bread, and other culturally appropriate food monthly. This food will be stocked in SCC's Benefits Hub food pantry, and students can access these supplies as needed. SCC will track student usage of the food pantry.

Health Supplies and Education: International Community Health Services (ICHS). This is a developing relationship between SCC and ICHS. The Gender Equity Center's Program Coordinator and a student employee (who focuses on sexual health and wellness) will work closely with ICHS's sexual health contact to provide education and resources through on-campus drop-in sessions.

Technical Assistance, Data Tracking, and Staffing: United Way of King County. UWKC has established methods of data tracking, and they will use those methods to track usage of the services included in this project. UWKC will also support the position of Benefits Hub Coordinator at SCC.

3. How have or will the partner organizations learn from each other and the communities served, and how does or will the partnership incorporate this learning into ongoing work?

SCC will coordinate communication and meetings among the partners to assess progress, successes, and areas for improvement. Frequent sharing among the partners will help all partners adjust and improve their outreach to target communities, provide the most needed services, and collaborate to prevent duplication of efforts across the partnership. SCC staff from Workforce Education, Benefits Hub, ABE/ESL, and the Center for Education and Career Options meet regularly, and going forward this group and the community partners will form a Basic Needs Workgroup. This team will meet regularly to create a Hunger Free Strategic Plan and streamline processes for providing holistic funding and support to students. SCC will also conduct ongoing evaluation of all services provided through this project, by tracking the students served and the services accessed, and by surveying student participants. SCC will

coordinate data collection from each of the other partners regarding participants and the services provided. This will allow the partnership to create a comprehensive picture of the communities served, assess needs and prioritize services, and continuously improve our work.

4. Who are the focal population(s) in your partnership’s work, and what assets do learners and families in these populations bring to their educational journeys?

The focal population of this work will be students enrolled at Shoreline Community College. All SCC students may access multiple student services on campus, and SCC will conduct strategic and culturally appropriate outreach to ensure we reach students from BIPOC and QTPOC populations. Students and their families bring a wealth of assets to their educational journeys. For example, they bring diverse experiences, gender identities, and cultural backgrounds which enrich the experiences of all students in the college environment. Because everyone has a unique experience and story, it is crucial to create an environment where students can see and connect with others like themselves, to help them feel comfortable with who they are and encourage them to share their experiences with others.

5. What is the geographic region where the focal population(s) that would be served by this investment live?

This project serves residents of the greater Seattle/King County region and Snohomish County. SCC serves students from across the Puget Sound region, but most come from the City of Shoreline, northwest Seattle, northern King County, and southwest Snohomish County. Throughout this region, homelessness and food insecurity are significant needs which we plan to address with this project.

6. What are some of the systematic barriers that learners and families in your focal population(s) encounter?

Supporting all students’ basic needs so that they can successfully reach their goals is central to the mission of Shoreline Community College. Students and families in our focal population face multiple systematic barriers, including housing and food insecurity, as well as challenges in meeting other basic needs such as healthcare, childcare, transportation, and other personal life necessities. Any one of these challenges can pose a significant barrier to entering college, persisting, and completing educational credentials; however, these barriers typically co-exist and compound on one another, often creating unsurmountable circumstances.

Statewide, we know from WSAC’s 2022 Statewide Postsecondary Basic Needs Survey (which included respondents from SCC) that 38.3% of Washington state college students reported food insecurity and 34.2% reported housing insecurity. The focal population for this project echoes this statewide trend. In SCC’s service area, homelessness and resource insecurity present significant barriers for individuals seeking educational pathways to living wage jobs. In 2021-22, of the 9,511 students in the Shoreline school district, 124 (1.3%) were homeless and 2,813 (29.6%) were categorized as low-income (source: OSPI). In the city of Shoreline, 23% of residents live below 200% of the poverty line, the highest rate in North King County. Looking at housing affordability, in Shoreline 48.5% of residents pay 30% or more of their income for rent, and in the North King County region 25% of residents spend over 50% of their income on rent. These numbers indicate that a significant proportion of residents in SCC’s service area face financial struggles to pay rent, buy groceries, and afford other basic living expenses.

We also know that these needs directly pose barriers to educational attainment, as evidenced by the SCC students who received support from the College’s current “Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness” grant: in FY23, 83% of students who accessed basic needs services completed the quarter,

and 69% re-enrolled the following quarter. This is an increase from the average completion and quarter-to-quarter retention rates, indicating the positive impact of basic needs support.

Through this project, we seek to lower these barriers as much as possible, and clear pathways for our students to succeed. This partnership draws on the collective expertise, connections, and infrastructure of all the partners, putting us in a strong position to reach our goals.

7. What work do you propose undertaking during the granting period?

Strengthen existing partnerships and build additional partnerships

- Shoreline CC has working relationships with Neighborhood House, Farmer Frog, and United Way of King County. This project will leverage and strengthen these relationships and also allow us to provide holistic support for students experiencing basic needs insecurities. For example, they may receive assistance for rent, utilities, and move-in costs through Neighborhood House. SCC's Benefits Hub Program Coordinator and Basic Needs Specialist, along with UWKC Benefits Hub coaches and Neighborhood House, will provide holistic support for students. SCC's Basic Needs Specialist will assess student needs, have access to funds, develop community and college resources, and coordinate with internal and external partners. They will work closely with the Executive Director for Student Support Services to expand the Basic Needs Workgroup, capturing diverse knowledge and experiences from our partners and campus.
- Farmer Frog will continue to provide culturally appropriate foods, fresh fruits and vegetables and hygiene items for SCC's Benefits Hub Food Pantry, which is open to students Monday-Friday. The Gender Equity Center (GEC) and Multicultural Center (MC) are currently working on a community garden, informed by a visit to the Farmer Frog Paradise Farm, which will focus on native plants, bees native to Washington and interested in native plants that are medicinal.
- SCC is in the early stages of developing a relationship with our community neighbor, ICHS, and this project will allow us to develop that partnership in meaningful ways.

Conduct outreach to students in the focal population

- SCC's Dean of Access and Advising and Executive Director for Student Support Services have been tasked with culturally appropriate student outreach. SCC will focus on creating ways to engage students and families by collaborating with internal and external stakeholders. For example, the partnership will work together to offer hands on workshops such as FAFSA/WASFA assistance in multiple languages, one-one one assistance on completing forms, and presentations on basic needs support and funding for education. These events will include families and will bring in speakers and culturally appropriate food and activities. SCC's goal is to strategically place ourselves in the community to connect with families in places where they are comfortable.

Administer support to students on campus and/or by connecting them to partners, as appropriate

- Food, hygiene, and healthcare supplies will be stored and distributed to students by the relevant centers on the Shoreline campus (e.g., Benefits Hub, Gender Equity Center, and eventually the new, co-located center).
- Housing support will be administered by Neighborhood House. SCC support services staff will connect students in need of housing support with Neighborhood House.
- Other services included in this partnership, such as educational workshops focused on sexual health education by ICHS, will be provided on campus at the student support centers. STI testing, COVID-19 testing, and other resources will be available at a centralized location on campus through drop-in sessions. For this project, ICHS will work with SCC's Gender Equity Center (GEC) to provide a range of healthcare products, educational workshops, and services. The GEC

recently hired a student who is focused on sexual health and wellness and will work collaboratively with ICHS on providing sexual health education to students.

Track activities and outcomes

- Data will be tracked through multiple systems (e.g., Apricot, Award Spring). These processes currently exist, and data is being collected and tracked in various ways. Each student completes a brief form when accessing SCC's Benefits Hub food and hygiene pantry, and outcomes are documented in SCC's annual area reviews as a mandatory part of the college's accreditation.

Co-locate multiple student services in a new Cultural & Identity Center

- Currently, student services at SCC are offered through multiple centers in different locations across campus, making coordination and collaboration a challenge. Students must engage in each space separately, and staffing cannot be leveraged well. To improve on this model, SCC is in discussions of co-locating several centers in one combined Cultural & Identity Center.
- The new center would include the current Gender Equity Center, Multicultural Center, and WAVES Center (for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students) in a location close to the Benefits Hub and Workforce Education.
- Co-location will show our students that SCC is invested in creating a space where they can see and engage with diverse students who come from all walks of life. We can embrace and encourage intersectionality and build community and a sense of belonging for students. This new center will help to de-silo areas and bring community into a space where students are already connected and comfortable.
- The new center will also include an "engagement zone," where campus and community partners can offer workshops, programming, and events.
- The new center was approved by SCC's College Council, and a Co-location Workgroup has been created. Space on campus has been identified and key stakeholders are on board. However, the funding required for building out and furnishing the space has not been secured. This grant funding would significantly help to make this idea a reality.

8. How will this proposed work contribute to increasing educational attainment for the focal population(s) in your region?

Without basic needs being met, particularly housing and food insecurity, it is extremely difficult for someone to navigate college enrollment, pay tuition, attend classes consistently and focus on studying, succeed academically, and persist through an academic program without interruption to completion. In addition, these needs do not exist in isolation, as they often lead to or are compounded by insufficient access to things like hygiene supplies, healthcare, childcare, transportation, and other basic life necessities. For many of our students and their families, struggling to meet these basic needs is a daily reality, which often supersedes their efforts to attain an education. Through this project, we seek to meet our students' needs to the greatest extent possible, thus giving them a greater opportunity to pursue and complete educational pathways that lead to successful employment.