

**WEIAOB 2025 Legislative Priorities Workgroup Summary: January 9, 2025**

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***Introduction and Workgroup Deliverables***

On September 18, 2024, the Board agreed to form a workgroup for the purposes of evaluating proposals from relevant stakeholders and recommending 2025 legislative priorities for the Board to consider on January 9, 2025. After receiving and reviewing **59 proposals** over the course of three meetings, the workgroup identified **14 proposals** that were highly aligned with the Board’s evaluation [rubric](#). To provide cross-sector representation on the workgroup, the following Board members participated and were supported by WSAC staff (Joel Anderson, Heather Hudson):

- Collin Bannister
- Jane Broom
- Ruben Flores
- Charles Knutson
- Bill Lyne
- Rep. Alex Ybarra

The application to submit proposals was made available on the Board’s [website](#) October 1–20, 2024, and shared via email on October 1 with all Board members, supporting staff, state agencies that had previously received funding from WEIA, and other state agencies and external organizations that had requested information about the Board’s review process. It allowed submitters to directly upload decision packages or complete a questionnaire that incorporated questions from both decision packages and the Board’s evaluation rubric for consideration.

***Summary of Submitted Proposals***

Overall, the workgroup received and reviewed **59 proposals** totaling **\$707.6 million** for consideration. These requests were submitted by the following stakeholders:

Type	Agency or Organization
<b>Public two- or four-year institution</b>	UW, WSU, CWU, WWU, EWU, TESC, SBCTC
<b>State agency</b>	ESD, DCYF, WSAC, WTB
<b>External organization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Success Foundation</li> <li>• Foundation for Tacoma Students</li> <li>• Independent Colleges of WA</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latino Center for Health (UW)</li> <li>• The Mentoring Project</li> <li>• Pacific Education Institute</li> <li>• WA Education Association</li> <li>• WA Student Association</li> </ul>
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Additionally, these requests fit into the following categories (listed in decreasing order by total amount):

Category	Number of Proposals	Total Amount
<b>Compensation</b>	16	\$359.5 million
<b>College operations</b>	5	\$145.8 million
<b>Student financial aid programs</b>	11	\$58.9 million
<b>Industry-specific credential production</b>	8	\$54.5 million
<b>College and career access, outreach, and navigation</b>	9	\$45.1 million
<b>Career Connect WA</b>	2	\$25.9 million
<b>Basic needs security</b>	8	\$17.9 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>\$707.6 million</b>

### ***Initial Review of Submitted Proposals***

Prior to the workgroup’s first meeting on October 30, 2024, WSAC staff conducted an internal review of all submitted proposals using the Board’s evaluation rubric and ranked them as “high,” “medium,” or “low” based on their alignment with rubric questions. This process produced the following rankings for the workgroup to review and discuss:

Ranking	Number of Proposals	Total Amount
<b>High</b>	13	\$99.7 million
<b>Medium</b>	22	\$124.1 million
<b>Low</b>	24	\$483.7 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>\$707.6 million</b>

### Recommended Proposals

The following proposals were discussed by the workgroup and recommended to the Board for consideration as it determines its 2025 legislative priorities. Proposals are listed in decreasing order by amount. *Agencies or organizations with an asterisk (\*) have previously received some amount of funding from WEIA for a related proposal.*

Agency or Organization	Description	Total Amount	New Funding
WSAC*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintains current income eligibility and award levels (65% MFI) for the WA College Grant (WCG)</li> <li>Incorporates Bridge Grants (\$500 stipends for maximum WCG award recipients) into the WCG</li> </ul>	\$38,806,000	\$7,606,000
Foundation for Tacoma Students*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expands the Financial Aid Outreach and Completion Pilot Program statewide to public two- and four-year institutions (originally proposed by <a href="#">SB 6254</a>, 2024)</li> <li>Creates a state-endorsed financial aid training program for K–12 counselors, teachers, external partners, etc.</li> </ul>	\$23,724,000	All
ESD*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases funding for Career Connect WA (CCW) program development grants that support career connected learning</li> </ul>	\$13,296,000	All
WSAC*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases funding for CCW program enrollment at CTCs, outreach, staffing, and other administrative needs</li> </ul>	\$12,630,000	All
WSAC*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makes Passport to Careers (PTC) an entitlement program and restores \$5,000/year scholarships</li> <li>Qualifies PTC-eligible students for maximum WCG awards</li> </ul>	\$12,100,000	All
UW*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expands computer science and engineering degree capacity at UW-Seattle</li> <li>Increases enrollment in fields related to artificial intelligence (AI) at UW-Bothell</li> </ul>	\$9,852,000	All

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports UW Provost’s AI Task Force by identifying other internal and external resources to advance related projects</li> </ul>		
EWU*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates a Master’s Degree in Dental Therapy program to help produce more dental professionals in rural communities</li> </ul>	\$6,059,000	All
EWU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates a polytechnic (focused STEM approach) model to offer applied learning in high-demand fields</li> <li>Enhances Office of Community Engagement to identify new applied learning opportunities</li> <li>Provides wraparound student supports to enable completion of applied learning opportunities</li> </ul>	\$4,419,000	All
UW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes new undergraduate and graduate nursing degree programs at UW-Tacoma to meet workforce demands</li> <li>Expands current Registered Nurse-to-Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at UW-Tacoma</li> </ul>	\$3,961,000	All
WSU*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continues the Native American Student Scholarship Pilot to cover unmet financial need for undergraduate students who are enrolled members of federally recognized Tribes</li> </ul>	\$2,200,000	All
CWU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expands the Business and Community Services program to support strategic planning and economic development resource relief within Central WA communities</li> </ul>	\$1,195,000	All
TESC*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continues the Shelton Promise pilot by providing unmet tuition costs, need-based living stipends, and promotional resources to Shelton SD students and families (to attend TESC)</li> </ul>	\$901,000	All

WWU*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increases funding for the Office of Academic Access and Outreach to offer programs, mentorship, and support services for first-generation and low-income students</li></ul>	\$808,000	All
Latino Center for Health (UW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establishes a scholarship and mentorship program for Latinx students graduating from CTCs and enrolling in health professional programs</li></ul>	\$130,000	All
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$130,081,000</b>	<b>\$98,881,000</b>