

Washington State Grants for Postsecondary Health Vending Machines

Legislative Report
June 30, 2025

Overview

The Washington State Legislature set aside funds in the 2023-2025 biennial budget to help students and staff at public colleges access health vending machines. These machines must offer emergency birth control and can offer other health supplies. In the second year of the program, schools were also required to include naloxone (a medicine that can stop an opioid overdose) and fentanyl test strips. The machines must be in private, easy-to-reach places, and be available on evenings and weekends.¹

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) was provided funds from the state operating budget to run the program. WSAC distributed grants to public colleges to buy, install, and stock the vending machines. \$200,000 was provided in Fiscal Year 2024 and \$230,000 in Fiscal Year 2025. WSAC offered up to \$10,000 per institution with a completed application. Funds were offered on a first-come, first-served basis each year, until the funds ran out. In FY 2025, WSAC gave priority to colleges that did not receive funding in FY 2024. An additional \$10,000 was available in FY 2025 to colleges with more than 20,000 full-time equivalent students.² WSAC partnered with Washington Department of Health (DOH), Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), and Council of Presidents (COP) to plan the program and share information with colleges.

“This grant removed critical barriers to reproductive healthcare for students in a medically underserved, rural area. By offering free, discreet access to contraception, and other supplies, the project supports student autonomy, health, and academic persistence. (This) investment demonstrates a powerful, practical commitment to equity and student success across Washington colleges.”

- Grays Harbor College

¹ P. 831-832, [coH-3501.2.pdf](https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/COH-3501.2.pdf) (wa.gov)

² WSAC grant guidance: <https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Vending%20Machine%20Grant%20Guidance%20FY25%20.pdf>

Institutions receiving grant funds

In the FY 2024, 17 institutions with 20 campuses received the grant. In FY 2025, 19 institutions with 20 campuses received the grant, including 11 new campus applicants. Two institutions (one in each fiscal year) that received grants but were unable to find machines that matched their needs and returned funds. Across the biennium, 29 total campuses received funding (see Figure 1).

In each year of the program, WSAC hosted orientation and technical support webinars for grantees. The webinars were presented in partnership with student advocates, the national non-profit American Society for Emergency Contraception (ASEC), and Washington DOH. Most grantee teams attended the orientation webinars and learned about emergency contraception facts and logistics, student advocate partnership tips, and campus implementation strategies. In the second year, orientation also included DOH staff presentations on opioid prevention, supplies, and logistics. ASEC and WSAC also gave technical support to colleges as needed to help them create and carry out their plans. Campus project teams said technical support helped them to adapt their plans when they faced challenges—such as switching vendors, getting equipment and supplies that fit their needs, and planning for project sustainability.

“The grant is helping expand our commitment to access by providing 24/7 availability of essential wellness and harm-reduction supplies, particularly for students in campus housing, helping us make available supplies which would otherwise be more expensive or unavailable at our campus stores, or not available during the mornings, weekends, or evenings/nights.”

- **The Evergreen State College**

Highlights shared by institutions

- **Many colleges worked with campus and community partners to create and carry out the plan:** Student Government, campus facilities, campus health centers, and community partners worked together to create a plan. They chose locations, provided free and reduced-cost products, and shared information with students and staff. Some campuses met with stakeholders early to get support and find answers to any concerns.
- **Many campuses have planned strategically to manage ongoing costs beyond the grant.** Long-term costs can include machine maintenance, credit card reader or service costs, and supplies. Some campuses chose free vending machines because collecting payment was more costly than the amount that could be received. Others worked with their bookstore, with current shopkeeper licenses, to stock an existing machine.

“We have had nothing but positive feedback from students about these supplies. Students are thrilled to have anonymous, free access to these safety supplies. Students are steadily accessing supplies at both of our locations.”

- **Tacoma Community College**

Figure 1: Public Postsecondary Institutions Receiving Health Vending Machine Grants, FY 2024 and 2025

Institution	Campus	Fiscal Year 2024	Fiscal Year 2025	Notes
Bates Technical College	Downtown	x	x	
	South	x		
Bellevue College			x	New in FY 2025
Cascadia College		x		
Central Washington University		x		
Clover Park Technical College		x		
Columbia Basin College		x		
Edmonds College			x	New in FY 2025
Everett Community College		x	x	
Grays Harbor College			x	New in FY 2025
Highline College		x	x	
Lake Washington Institute of Technology		x	x	
Lower Columbia College		x	x	
North Seattle College			x	New in FY 2025
Olympic College		x	x	
Pierce College	Fort Steilacoom	x	x	
	Puyallup	x	x	
Renton Technical College		x	x	
South Puget Sound College			x	New in FY 2025
Spokane Community College			x	New in FY 2025
Spokane Falls Community College		x	x	
Tacoma Community College		x	x	
The Evergreen State College			x	New in FY 2025
University of Washington	Bothell	x		
	Seattle		x	New in FY 2025
	Tacoma	(x)	x	Attempted FY 2025; new in FY 2025
Washington State University	Pullman	x		
	Spokane	x		
Western Washington University		x		
Yakima Valley College	Main		(x)	Attempted FY 2025
	Grandview		(x)	Attempted FY 2025
Total Funded Campuses		20	20	9 new campuses funded in FY 2025

Note: (x) indicates campus received grant but returned all funding at end of year.

For more information about this grant program and report, please contact:

Ami Magisos, Associate Director, Washington Student Achievement Council: Amim@wsac.wa.gov.