



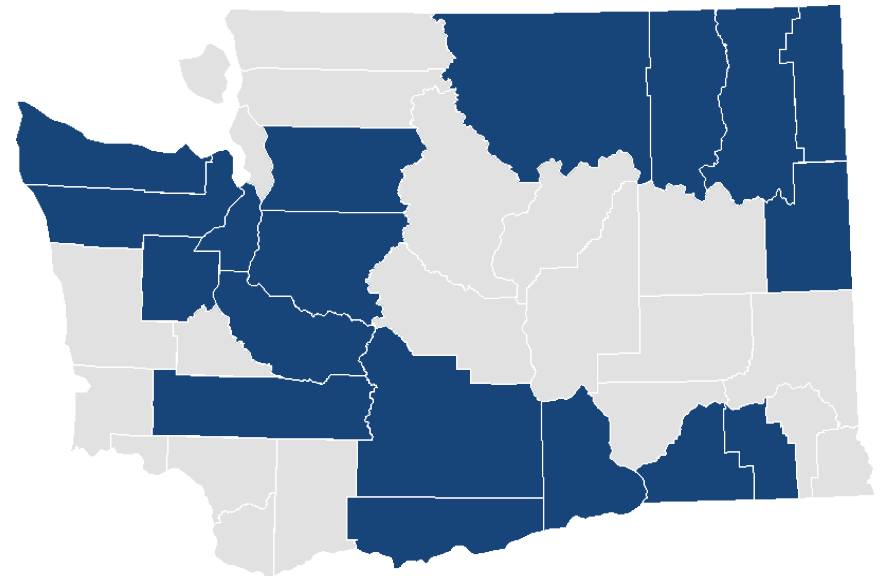
In Washington State, 62 percent of adults have a postsecondary credential. The state's goal is to raise this number to 70 percent to create more economic opportunities and increase social mobility. **With the Regional Challenge Grant (RCG), WSAC funds regional partnerships that are increasing attainment in their local communities.**

Achieving this goal requires meeting the needs of learners historically underserved by higher education. These include students of color, students from low-income backgrounds, English-language learners, students with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, and students in foster care.

Regional partnerships bring together public K-12 school districts, community-based organizations, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Today, 12 partnerships are working to increase postsecondary attainment across Washington.

Local community members can shape student outcomes from a position of deep community knowledge, trust, and needs.

RCG has committed over
\$17 million to
12 partnerships
across the state



Counties with active
Regional Partnerships

71 community based
organizations

24 K-12 entities

20 institutions of
higher education

Regional Partnerships

Partnership Structure

Each partnership is working with the learners in their communities to identify place-based strategies to improve attainment, such as:

- Financial aid application assistance (FAFSA & WASFA)
- Guidance for the transition to college
- Early and ongoing family engagement
- Basic needs and transportation resources

Beyond just programs and services, partnerships seek to build regional cultures that value education for all residents and improve attainment in lasting ways.

“What I love about it is that this is not cookie cutter. We go into these spaces where the communities show us what the need is, we get the feedback for what needs to change, and we implement it.”

– Dina Ibarra, leadership council member,
Yakima Valley Partners for Education



Partnership staff celebrate with a parent graduate in Lewis County
Photo by Jesse Smith, Chehalis School District

Early Impacts

Each partnership works with WSAC to set short-term goals and measure progress. Early results include increased FAFSA filing rates and increased retention rates for students of focus.

- Learn more about our [evaluation process](#).
- Learn more about our [early impacts](#).



Visit wsac.wa.gov/challenge-grants
to read about each regional partnership's approach.