

**LEARN Community of Practice**  
*Local Education Adult Resource Network*

March 4, 2026  
12:00 – 1:30 PM

**Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Learning: Washington College Grant Presentation
3. Engaging: Small Group Discussion
4. Wrap Up

**Meeting Schedule**

May 6, 2026  
June 2026 In-Person Convening

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

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



# Pathways to Washington College Grant

**LEARN Community of Practice**

**March 4, 2026**





# Presenter



## **Gabriele Matull Worst**

Associate Director – Need-Based Programs,  
Implementation and Initiatives

[gabrielew@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:gabrielew@wsac.wa.gov)

360-515-3012



# Agenda

## Today we'll be covering:

- Who is the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)?
- WA Grant (WG) Marketing and Concept
- WCG
  - General overview
- WCG-Connect (WCG-C)
- Q&A





# Who is WSAC?



# The Council



**Jeff Vincent, Chair**  
Retired CEO & President  
Laird Norton Company



**Chris Reykdal**  
Superintendent  
Office of Superintendent of  
Public Instruction



**Miles Parker**  
Graduate Student  
Member



**Jeff Charbonneau, Vice Chair**  
Principal  
Zillah School District



**Evangelina Shreeve**  
Chief Diversity Officer &  
Director, STEM Education  
Pacific NW Nat'l Laboratory



**Monyu Yu**  
Undergraduate Student  
Member



**Nate Humphrey**  
Executive Director  
State Board for Community &  
Technical Colleges



**Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon**  
CEO & President  
Independent Colleges of  
Washington



**Ruben Flores**  
Executive Director  
Council of Presidents



**Vacant**  
Citizen Member

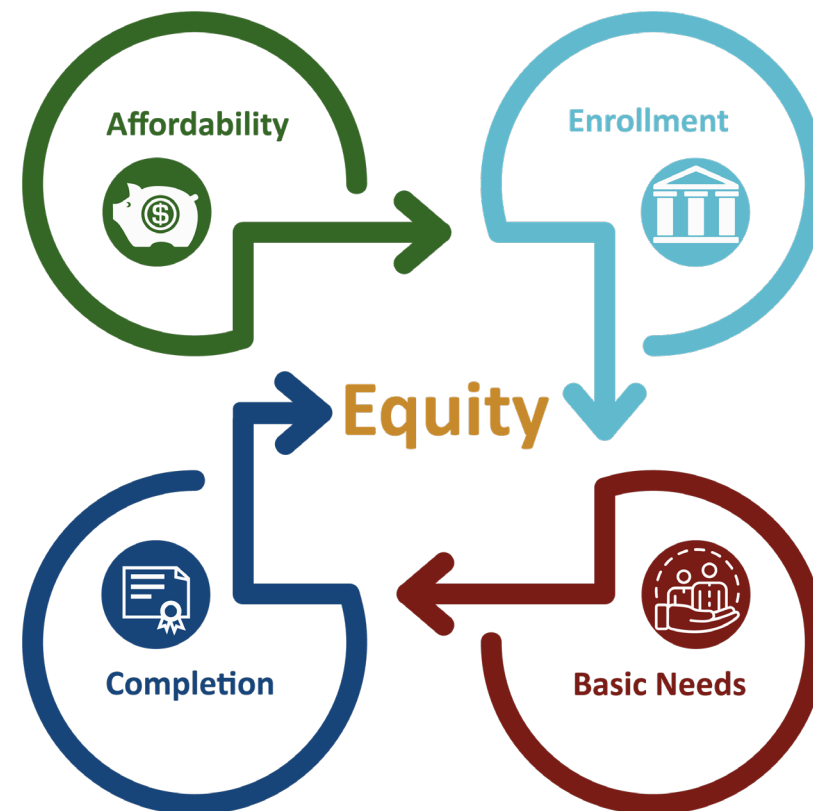


# Washington Student Achievement Council

## Our Mission:

**We advance educational opportunities and attainment in Washington.** In pursuit of our mission, the **Washington Student Achievement Council:**

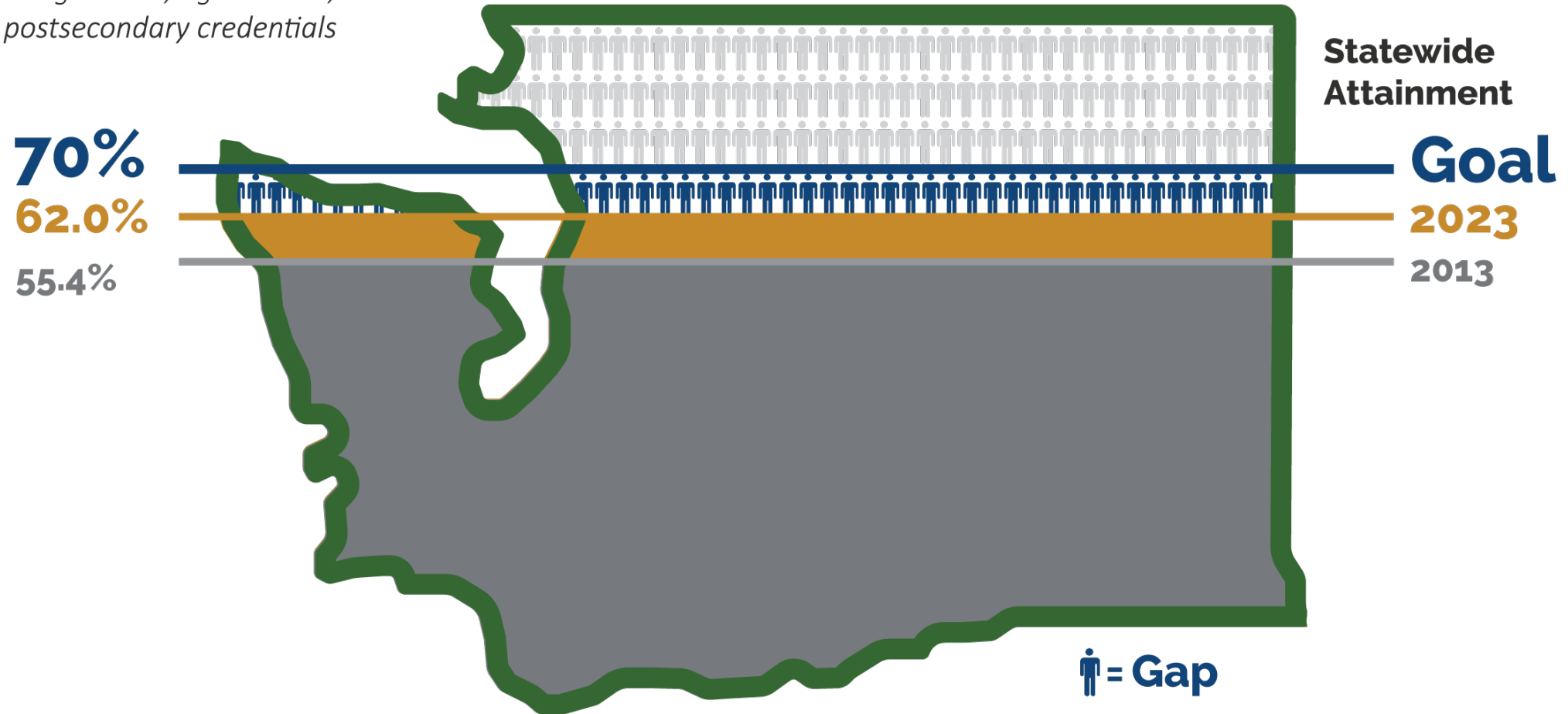
- Leads statewide strategic planning to improve educational coordination and transitions.
- Supports Washingtonians through the administration of financial aid, a college savings plan, and support services.
- Advocates for the economic, social, and civic benefits of postsecondary education.





# Washington's Postsecondary Attainment Goal

*Washingtonians, ages 25–44,  
with postsecondary credentials*





**WA Grant**



# WA Grant Branding and Marketing



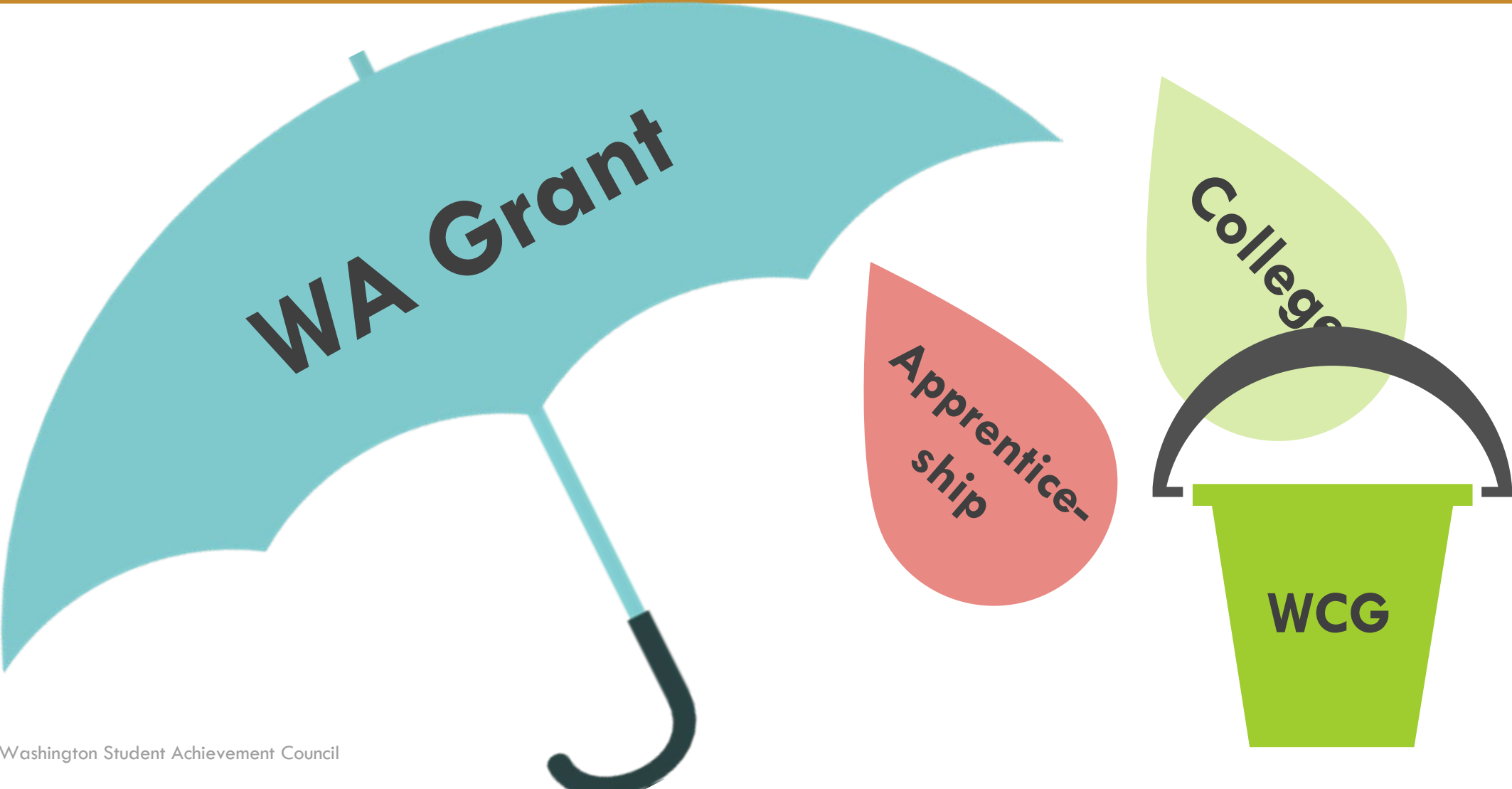
Making free college or career training possible

**WA Grant:** better promotes the Washington College Grant as a flexible option to be used for many college and career training pathways.





# The WA Grant Umbrella





# WA Grant Pathways



Washington College Grant



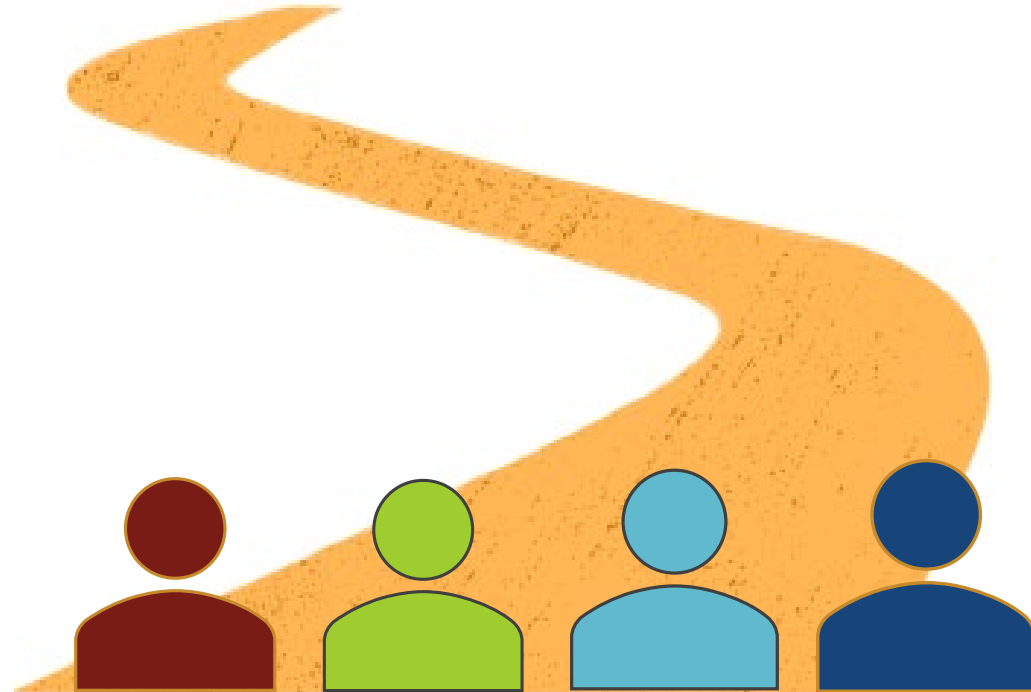
WA Grant for Apprenticeship



WCG - Connect



Early Path to WA Grant





# Washington College Grant (WCG)



# Spread the Word

## WA Grant is:

- Generous → **Covers tuition and fees at public colleges**
- Flexible → **You have options!**

## Resources

**WAGrant.org:** in Spanish at [WAGrant.org/ES](http://WAGrant.org/ES)

- Links to applications, eligibility charts, apprenticeship info
- Financial aid calculator to estimate WA Grant and Pell

**Financial Aid Toolkit:** [wsac.wa.gov/fa-toolkit](http://wsac.wa.gov/fa-toolkit)

- Branded social media content, promotional flyers, etc.



Free college or career  
training—it's possible!





# Who does WA Grant Serve?



Washington residents (including those with any immigration status)



Recent high school graduates or any adult (no age restrictions!)



Low- to middle-income families and individuals



People who plan to attend an approved certificate program, job training, apprenticeship, or college, part-time or full-time

**W A G r a n t**



# Washington College Grant (WCG)



## Program Requirements

A student must:

- ✓ Demonstrate financial need
- ✓ Be a resident of Washington state, attending an approved participating institution or apprenticeship program
- ✓ Have earned a high school diploma or equivalent
- ✓ Not be pursuing a degree in theology
- ✓ Not already achieved a bachelor's degree or higher
- ✓ Not be in default or owe a repayment on another state financial aid program



# Washington College Grant (WCG)

## How long can a student receive WCG?

- Students can receive the full-time award for up to 18 quarters or 12 semesters. That is 6 years of eligibility and aligns with Pell Grant limits as well!



No Time Limit



No Age Limit



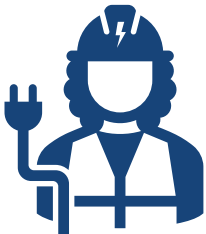
# Washington College Grant (WCG)

## Where can the WCG be used?



At over 65 public and private institutions across Washington

- Including 2-year and 4-year colleges
- <https://wsac.wa.gov/sfa-institutions>



At over 30 approved apprenticeship sponsors

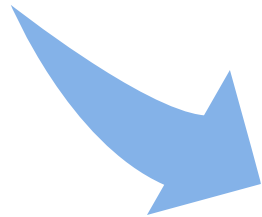
- <https://wsac.wa.gov/wcg-apprentices>



# Washington College Grant (WCG)

## How much can a student receive in WCG?

The award amount a student receives depends on family size, income, and the cost of their school or program. This is known as student “need”.



Need is determined by Median Family Income (MFI), which is different from Federal programs that use the Student Aid Index (SAI)



# Washington College Grant (WCG)

How are MFI levels/need determined?

## FAFSA

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- FAFSA.gov

OR

## WASFA

- Washington Application for State Financial Aid
- [wsac.wa.gov/WASFA](http://wsac.wa.gov/WASFA)

OR

## Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C)

- Be a recipient of PWA, HEN, ABD, or EcSA
- Receive SNAP/FAP in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade

More slides to come about WCG-C



# Washington College Grant (WCG)

## Median Family Income (MFI) Levels for 2025-2026 Washington College Grant and College Bound Scholarship Program Eligibility



Family Size	60%	65% (CBS Maximum)	70% (WCG only)	75% (WCG only)	100% (WCG only - Maximum)
1	\$41,000	\$44,500	\$47,500	\$51,000	\$68,000
2	\$53,500	\$58,000	\$62,500	\$67,000	\$89,000
3	\$66,000	\$71,500	\$77,000	\$82,500	\$110,000
4	\$78,500	\$85,000	\$91,500	\$98,500	\$131,000
5	\$91,000	\$99,000	\$106,500	\$114,000	\$152,000
6	\$104,000	\$112,500	\$121,000	\$129,500	\$173,000
7	\$106,000	\$115,000	\$124,000	\$132,500	\$177,000
8	\$108,500	\$117,500	\$126,500	\$135,500	\$181,000
9	\$111,000	\$120,000	\$129,500	\$138,500	\$185,000
10	\$113,000	\$122,500	\$132,000	\$141,500	\$188,500
11	\$115,500	\$125,000	\$135,000	\$144,500	\$192,500
12	\$118,000	\$128,000	\$137,500	\$147,500	\$196,500
13	\$120,500	\$130,500	\$140,500	\$150,500	\$200,500
14	\$122,500	\$133,000	\$143,000	\$153,500	\$204,500
15	\$125,000	\$135,500	\$146,000	\$156,500	\$208,500
16	\$127,500	\$138,000	\$148,500	\$159,000	\$212,500
17	\$129,500	\$140,500	\$151,500	\$162,000	\$216,000
18	\$132,000	\$143,000	\$154,000	\$165,000	\$220,000
19	\$134,500	\$145,500	\$157,000	\$168,000	\$224,000
20	\$137,000	\$148,000	\$159,500	\$171,000	\$228,000

**MFI** is determined annually – specific to an academic year.



# Washington College Grant (WCG)

## For Example:

Family Size	Full Award	Partial Award
 Eligible Student Family of 1	<b>Income</b> \$41,000 or less	<b>Income</b> Up to \$68,000
 Eligible Student Family of 4	\$78,500 or less	Up to \$131,000

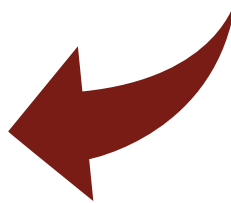
Students and families can use the [financial aid calculator](#) to estimate their potential WA Grant award.



# Washington College Grant (WCG)

2025-26 WCG Only Amounts					
Institution/Sector	0% - 60% (100% - full award)	61% - 65% (60% of full award)	66% - 70% (50% of full award)	71% - 75% (24.5% of full award)	76% - 100% (10% of full award)
University of Washington	\$12,780	\$7,668	\$6,390	\$3,131	\$1,278
Washington State University	\$12,287	\$7,372	\$6,144	\$3,010	\$1,229
Central Washington University	\$8,322	\$4,993	\$4,161	\$2,039	\$832
Eastern Washington University	\$7,771	\$4,662	\$3,885	\$1,904	\$777
The Evergreen State College	\$8,357	\$5,014	\$4,179	\$2,048	\$836
Western Washington University	\$8,510	\$5,106	\$4,255	\$2,085	\$851
Private Four-Year Non-Profit	\$9,739	\$5,843	\$4,870	\$2,386	\$974
Private Four-Year For-Profit	\$8,517	\$5,110	\$4,259	\$2,087	\$852
WGU Washington	\$5,619	\$3,371	\$2,810	\$1,377	\$562
Community & Technical Colleges	\$4,923	\$2,954	\$2,462	\$1,206	\$492
CTC Applied Bachelor's	\$7,865	\$4,719	\$3,933	\$1,927	\$787
Private Two-Year Non-Profit	\$3,694	\$2,216	\$1,847	\$905	\$369
Private Two-Year For-Profit	\$2,823	\$1,694	\$1,412	\$692	\$282
Northwest Indian College - Tribal College	\$3,694	\$2,216	\$1,847	\$905	\$369

**Awards for full-time enrollment (12+ credits or 300 clock hours) for the 2025-26 Academic Year**





# Maximizing Financial Aid

WCG can cover tuition and fees.

Students can apply for federal aid in addition to the state aid they receive.

Completing the FAFSA can qualify a student for up to \$7,395 in additional aid.

Federal Student Aid  
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FAFSA® Form ▾

Loans and Grants ▾

Loan Repayment ▾

Loan Forgiveness ▾

## Complete the FAFSA® Form

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school.

### New to the FAFSA® Process?

Completing the FAFSA form is free. Fill it out now.

Start Here

### Returning User?

Correct info | Add a school

View your *Student Aid Report (SAR)*

Log In

<https://studentaid.gov/fafsa>



# Washington College Grant- Connect (WCG-C)



# Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C)

## What is it?

A pathway for students enrolled in certain public benefit programs, as defined by law and approved by WSAC, to automatically income-qualify for the maximum Washington College Grant (WCG).

## GOAL



The Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C) is designed to reduce initial barriers to completing a financial aid application.





# Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C)

2SHB 1835 (2022) allows for automatic WCG income eligibility for students receiving any of the following public benefit programs:

- Aged, blind, or disabled assistance (ABD) benefits
- Essential needs and housing support program (HEN) benefits
- Pregnant women assistance program (PWA) financial grants

Effective July 1, 2023, for the 2023-24 Academic Year and beyond

APPROVED PROGRAM in 2023: Economic Security for All (EcSA)



# Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C)

## ◆◆◆ NEW EARLY PATH TO WA GRANT



HB 2214 (2024) expanded automatic WCG income eligibility for students who received the following public benefit programs in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade (beginning the 2025-26 academic year):

- Washington basic food program (SNAP)
- Washington food assistance program (FAP)



# Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C)

## NEW

- ✓ The Early Path to WA Grant is available as a pilot to high school seniors (12<sup>th</sup> grade) graduating in the 2025-26 Academic Year (AY) for the 2026-27AY
  - Seniors will receive one academic year (2026-27) of WCG-C eligibility, post-graduation.
  - Pathway will expand to students in grades 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> beginning in the 2026-27 Academic Year





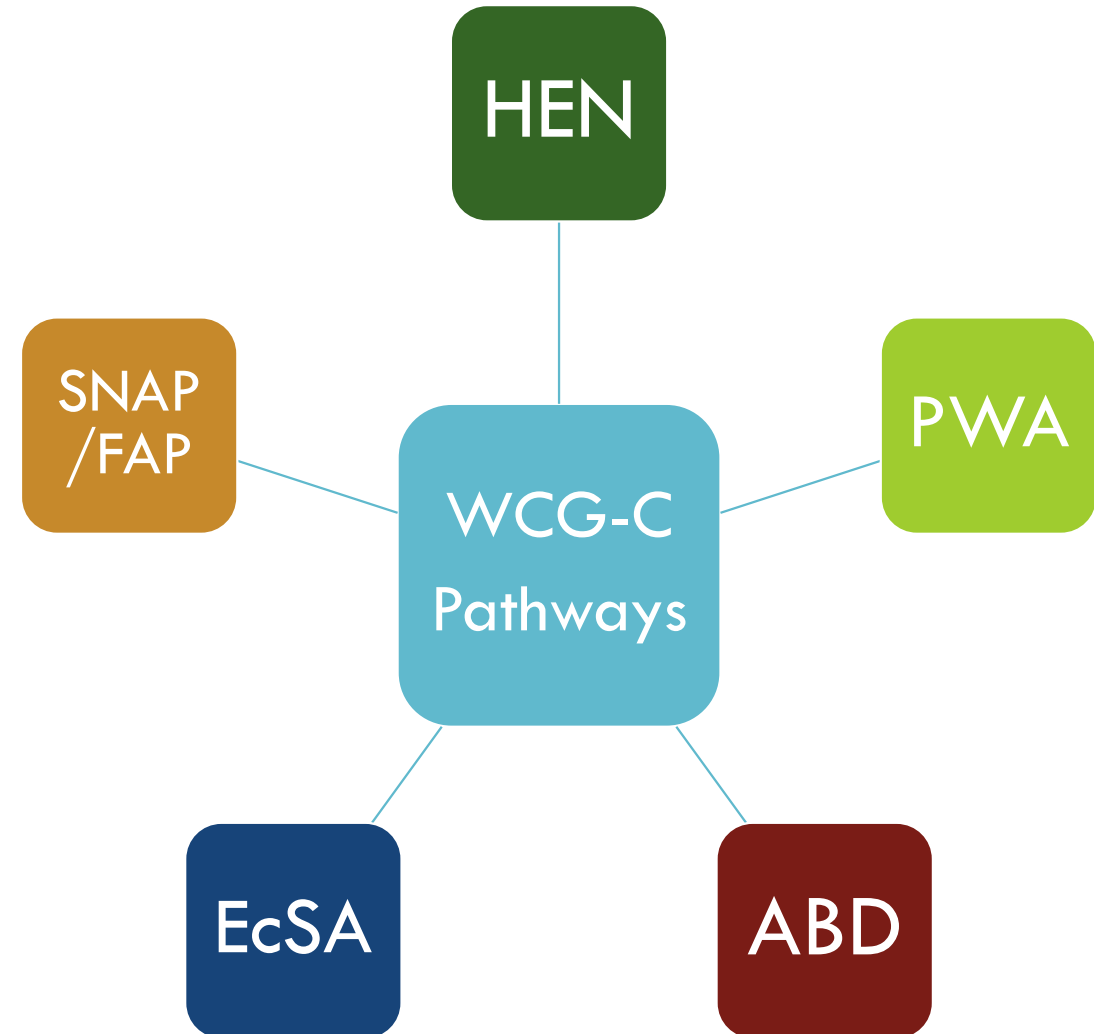
# Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C)

## Department of Health and Human Services (DSHS):

- Aged, blind, or disabled assistance (ABD) benefits
- Essential needs and housing support program (HEN) benefits
- Pregnant women assistance program (PWA) financial grants
- Washington basic food program (SNAP) and Washington food assistance program (FAP) for students in the 10th, 11th, and/or 12th grade

## Economic Security Department (ESD):

- Economic Security for All (EcSA)





# Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C)



**WCG-Connect  
Pathway  
(DSHS & EcSA)**

**Washington College Grant**

**Early Path to WA Grant  
10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**





# WCG - Connect Program Requirements

## All Students Must:

- ☑ Be a resident of Washington state
- ☑ Have earned a high school diploma or equivalent
- ☑ Attend an approved participating institution or apprenticeship program
- ☑ Not be pursuing a degree in theology
- ☑ Not be in default or owe a repayment on another state financial program.
- ☑ Not have already earned a Bachelors degree or higher



# WCG - Connect Program Requirements

## WCG-Connect



Demonstrate financial need by being in ABD, HEN, PWA, or EcSA or SNAP/FAP pathway

## Early Path to WA Grant



Demonstrate financial need by receiving SNAP/FAP in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade



Graduate from a WA high School or Homeschool (GED ineligible)



Eligible for the academic year following high school graduation



# Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C)

## WCG-Connect Income Eligibility

 No FAFSA Or WASFA Required

 Qualify For Maximum WCG Award



# WCG – Connect 2025-26 Award Amounts 4-Year

2025-26 WCG Only Amounts

Institution/Sector	0% - 60% (100% - full award)	61% - 65% (60% of full award)	66% - 70% (45% of full award)	71% - 75% (24.5% of full award)	76% - 80% (10% of full award)
University of Washington	\$12,780	\$7,668	\$6,390	\$3,131	\$1,278
Washington State University	\$12,287	\$7,372	\$6,144	\$3,010	\$1,229
Central Washington University	\$8,322	\$4,993	\$4,161	\$2,039	\$832
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Private Four-Year For-Profit	\$8,517	\$5,110	\$4,259	\$2,087	\$852
WGU Washington	\$5,619	\$3,371	\$2,810	\$1,377	\$562

**WCG-C students qualify  
for maximum WCG  
Awards.**



# WCG – Connect 2025-26 Award Amounts 2-Year

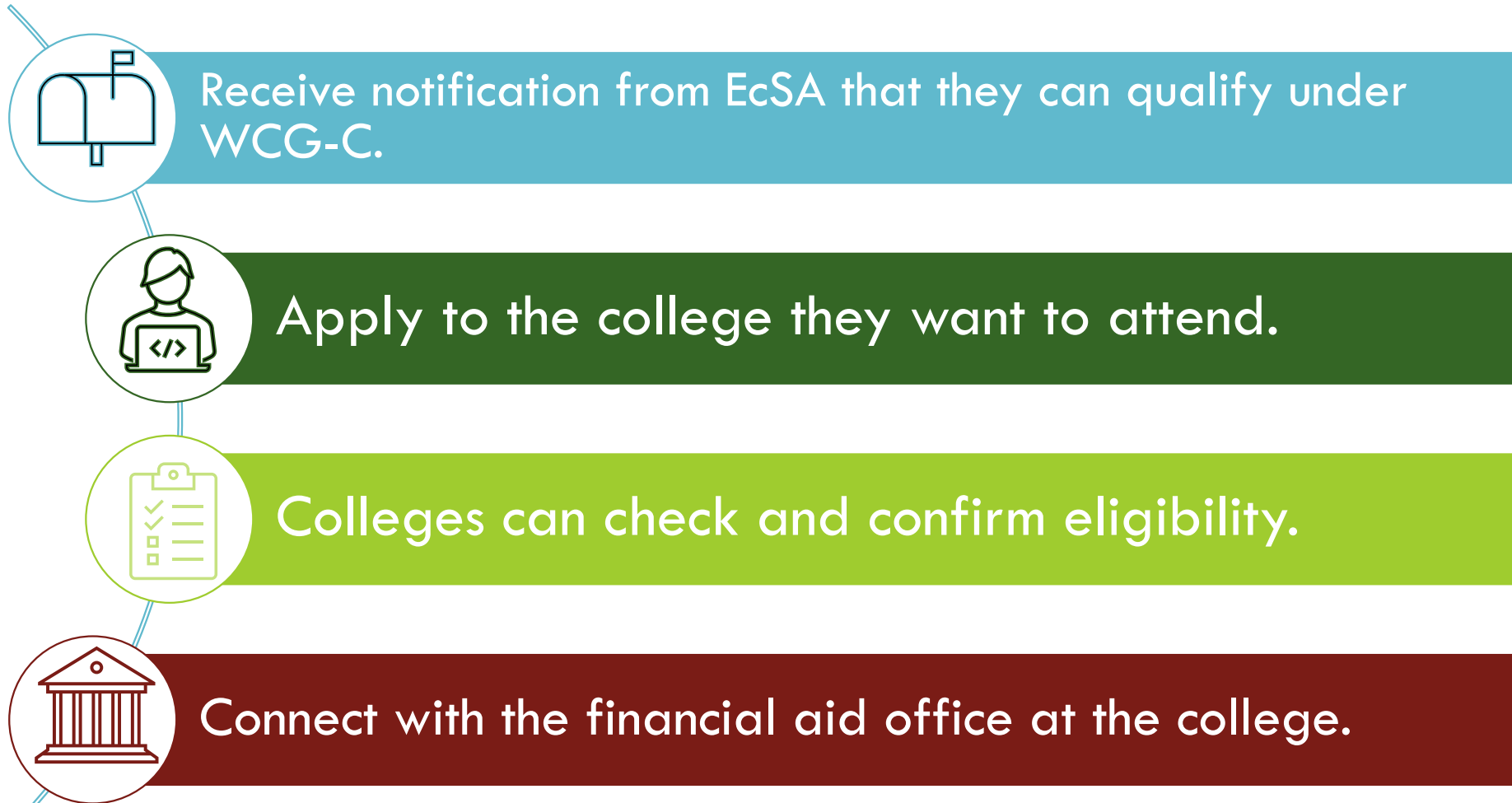
2025-26 WCG Award Amounts 2-Year Institutions					
2-Year Institution/Sector	Median Family Income				
	0% - 60%	61% - 65%	66% - 70%	71% - 75%	76% - 100%
	(100% - full award)	(60% of full award)	(50% of full award)	(24.5% of full award)	(10% of full award)
Community & Technical Colleges	\$4,923	\$2,954	\$2,462	\$1,206	\$492
CTC Applied Bachelor's	\$7,865	\$4,719	\$3,933	\$1,927	\$787
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Northwest Indian College - Tribal College	\$3,694	\$2,216	\$1,847	\$905	\$369

WG-Apprenticeship





# WCG-Connect: What does it look like for a prospective student?





# Financial Aid Resources



# Where Can Students Get Help Applying for Federal Aid?

- Financial Aid Office
- Check with your public library
- Federal Student Aid help center
  - <https://studentaid.gov/help-center>
- 12<sup>th</sup> Year Campaign events
  - [wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-events](https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-events)

The screenshot shows the Washington Student Achievement Council website. At the top is the logo with the text "WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL" and "EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS". Below the logo is a navigation menu with tabs for "ABOUT US", "MEETINGS", "POLICY", "FINANCIAL AID", "ADMINISTRATION", and "OUTREACH & INT". The "FINANCIAL AID" tab is selected. Below the menu is a breadcrumb trail: "financial aid » about financial aid » apply for financial aid". The main heading is "APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID". Below this is the sub-heading "How do I apply for financial aid?". The text explains that the Washington College Grant (WA Grant) gives more money to more people for more types of education and training beyond high school. It states that in Washington, there are two different applications for financial aid, but you only need to complete one. Two options are listed: 1. Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if you are a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen. 2. Complete the WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) if you are not eligible to complete the FAFSA due to loans, or other issues with federal aid. Below the list are two highlighted boxes: a blue box for FAFSA with the text "Free Application for Federal Student Aid", "FAFSA", and "Visit fafsa.gov"; and a green box for WASFA with the text "Washington Application for State Financial Aid", "WASFA", and "Visit wsac.wa.gov/wasfa". Below these boxes is the sub-heading "When should I apply?". The text explains that it's never too early to plan ahead or too late to apply, and that financial aid applications for the 2023-24 academic year are now open. It also notes that you do not need to know whether or where you plan to go to school or what programs you might be interested in to apply for financial aid. Finally, it states that some colleges may have additional financial aid forms for you to complete, and that you should check their website or contact their financial aid office if admitted, to ensure your application information is received accurately and on time.



## Washington College Grant and General Financial Aid

Toll Free Line 1-888-535-0747, Option 3 > 1

[Finaid@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:Finaid@wsac.wa.gov) (students and families)

[WCG@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:WCG@wsac.wa.gov) (FAAs)



## WSAC's Financial Aid Website

<https://wsac.wa.gov/apply>

## WA Grant for Apprenticeship

Toll Free Line 1-888-535-0747, Option 9

[Apprenticeship@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:Apprenticeship@wsac.wa.gov)



# Discussion and Questions

Thank You  
For  
Your Partnership!

