Postsecondary Student Supports for Basic Needs Advisory Group

May 20, 2021, 9am – 12 pm

Hosts: Ami Magisos, Alex Markley, Kristina Pogosian, Charlotte Gavell, Savanna Navarro Kresse
Student Supports for Basic Needs

Today’s Objectives:

• Explore recent legislative developments in postsecondary basic needs with cross-sector advocates
• Engage cross-sector leaders in the development of a statewide vision and action agenda for supporting postsecondary basic needs
• Consider next steps for advancing statewide support for basic needs.

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council
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

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council
If we build an affordable and supportive educational environment, more Washington residents will enroll in and complete a credential-bearing program.

**Equity** is an outcome in which justice is realized within our society through a continuous, intentional process of identifying and abolishing racism and all forms of oppression designed to marginalize students, communities, and families who are Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, regardless of immigration status, and all oppressed groups.

*WSAC Equity Definition*
At least 70 percent of Washington adults, ages 25-44, within each racial and ethnic community and region, will have a postsecondary credential. Currently, an estimated 62% percent of Washington’s adults have a credential beyond high school.
How COVID-19 is Impacting Postsecondary Students

**Students are struggling academically**

In Spring 2020, 9 in 10 students reported concern over the abrupt shift to online learning.

**Students are struggling financially**

In Spring 2020, more than 7 in 10 students reported losing their source of income.

**Students’ basic needs are jeopardized**

In Spring 2020, almost 6 in 10 college students faced basic needs insecurity.

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Sources: Survey by California Student Aid Commission; May 2020; sample includes 76,000 students
Survey by The Hope Center; April 20-May 15; sample includes 38,602 students
Postsecondary Food and Housing Security

• 2019 Legislation:
  • 2SHB 1893
  • 2SSB 5800

• Data on Prevalence of Unmet Basic Needs

• Statewide Learning Community: Effective Partnerships
Recent Advances

- 2021 State Legislative Advances:
  - Housing: SSB 1166
  - Mental/Behavioral Healthcare access
  - Emergency Aid
  - Childcare
- Basic Food Communications / Marketing
- Data: Prevalence of Unmet Basic Needs planning
Lessons from advocacy on postsecondary basic needs

- **Charles Adkins**, City of Everett Rethink Housing, former WSA
- **Joel Ryan**, Washington Association of Head Start and ECEAP
- **Jude Ahmed**, Washington Student Association, WWU
- **Jamie Traugott**, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
- **Nelly Evans**, United Way of King County
Postsecondary
Basic Needs
Vision and Action
Agenda
Vision and Action Agenda

Why a Vision and Action Agenda?

- WSAC Strategic Action Plan
- Stakeholder-developed “north star” vision and priority roadmap can guide us forward in the state
The Task Force: Vision and Action Agenda

- Stakeholders across Washington State
- Process of engagement
  - What do we know
  - Challenges, strengths, opportunities, partners
  - Problem statements and action items

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council
Task Force Structure

Coordinating Team

Subcommittee

Subject Matter Experts

Subcommittee

Subcommittee

Subcommittee

Subject Matter Experts
What will the task force be creating together?

Assets

Vision

Action Agenda

Recommendations

Challenges
Postsecondary basic needs in Washington encompass but are not limited to food and housing security, access to quality, affordable child care, and access to health care including mental/behavioral health care. Washington envisions a future where racial justice, economic justice and educational equity are centered in building basic needs security for all postsecondary students:

As Washington eliminates barriers to basic needs for postsecondary students, pursues equitable outcomes and reduces disparate impacts, all students will have access to basic needs resources, leading to better academic outcomes, higher rates of persistence and completion, and greater stability to pursue their goals in the workforce and in further training and education.
How were actions generated and prioritized?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape</th>
<th>Problem statements and actions</th>
<th>Prioritization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-Available definitions and data</td>
<td>-Synthesis of key problems</td>
<td>What actions are most important to move our state forward?</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Assets and model programs</td>
<td>-Brainstorm of possible actions</td>
<td>-Statewide</td>
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<td>-Challenges and gaps</td>
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<td>-Without regard to who will implement</td>
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<td>-Current state policy</td>
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Source: Washington Student Achievement Council
Data

Developing a stronger awareness of the problem;

1. Establish institutional and statewide data gathering practices on basic needs insecurity prevalence, impacts, access, and disparities, including retention and completion impacts, outcome benchmarks, and shared data definitions.
Deepening commitment to established approaches and new solutions:

1. Expand access and funding for student emergency aid programs, such as the SBCTC Student Emergency Assistance Grant Program.
2. Identify non-federal funding to eliminate the barriers for immigrant students.
3. Increase the minimum wage.
Partnerships

Fostering a community approach to addressing basic needs insecurity;

1. Form partnerships between institutions and existing government or community groups who can address basic needs insecurities for postsecondary students.
2. Explicitly connect DEI goals with basic needs work at state, institutional, and organizational levels

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council
Outreach

Connecting students with basic needs supports;

1. Develop orientation programming, workshops, informational campaigns, and outreach to educate students on basic needs insecurity, destigmatize experiences of basic needs insecurity, and provide information on state and campus basic needs programs.

2. Embed basic needs connections in Enrollment Services (Admissions, Financial Aid). Communicate benefit eligibility to students based on FAFSA/WAFSA results.

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council
Access

Reducing barriers to basic needs supports;

1. Reassess or eliminate benefit eligibility barriers unique to postsecondary students; including work requirements, income limits, residency status, and other eligibility barriers.
2. Improve and simplify basic needs benefit application processes, including better support those with lower English language proficiency and other accessibility needs.
3. Establish designated basic needs resource navigator systems within institutions, including case management support.

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council
Meeting Agreements

- Success depends on participation (share ideas, ask questions, draw others out)
- Share your unique perspective
- Allow every voice to be heard
- Listen to understand
- Respect each others’ thinking and value their contributions
- Listen for understanding – inquire (ask) before you advocate (persuade)
- Treat everything you hear as an opportunity to learn and grow
- Speak your truth, without blame or judgment
- Be intrigued by the difference you hear
- Expect to be surprised
- Ask “what’s possible?” not “what’s wrong”? Keep asking
- Listen for the future to emerge
- Challenge cherished beliefs
- Seek common ground and understanding (not problems and conflict)
- Articulate hidden assumptions
Breakout Discussions

• Housing Security - Kristina Pogosian
• Food Security – Alex Markley
• Mental/Behavioral Healthcare – Charlotte Gavell
• Childcare access – Ami Magisos
Survey and Break
Breakout Insights and highlights

- Housing Security
- Food Security
- Mental/Behavioral Healthcare
- Childcare access

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council
Postsecondary Basic Needs

What are our next steps to advance statewide support for Postsecondary Basic Needs?
Thank you and call to action

- Stay engaged—follow up with us, ask questions and tell us what you think

- July 15: WSAC Council meeting on Postsecondary Basic Needs

- Oct 14, 2021 9am - 12pm: Next Advisory Group meeting

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council
Thank you for participating!

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WSAC Student Supports webpage:
https://wsac.wa.gov/student-supports