

CCW Cross-Agency Work Group (CAWG) Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 21, 2025 | 9:00 AM- 10:30 AM

Zoom Registration Link:

<https://wsac-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/7N0dLd9SSxCRcio6mvdW3w>

Meeting Purpose:		
This CAWG meeting will include agency and legislative updates, highlight impactful examples of career-connected learning partnerships at the regional and state levels, and include an interagency discussion.		
Time	Agenda Topic	Speaker
9:00-9:05 AM	Welcome & Overview	Kimberly Hetrick (WSAC)
9:05-9:20 AM	Agency Introductions and Updates: <i>Opportunity for agencies to provide brief updates and share areas for collaboration and partnership.</i>	All
9:20-9:35 AM	Employment Security Department	Andrew Clemons (ESD)
9:35 -9:45 AM	CAWG Plan for FY26 (PowerPoint)	Kimberly Hetrick (WSAC)
9:45- 10:00 AM	Discussion – What do we want to see this year for CAWG? <i>Please send notes and proposed meeting topics to JessicaDa@wsac.wa.gov</i>	Jessica Murillo-Davis (WSAC)
10:00 AM	Closing Upcoming Meeting Dates: October 16, 2025 December 18, 2025 Feb 19, 2026 April 16, 2026 June 18, 2026	Jessica Murillo-Davis (WSAC)



Cross Agency Work Group (CAWG), SFY 2026

August 21, 2025

Kimberly Hetrick, Director Career Connect WA



Career Connected Learning Cross Agency Work Group (CAWG)

- **Establishment**

- Establish the work group, within existing resources, to scale up and expand high quality career connected learning opportunities across the state. [RCW 28C.30.030](#)

- **Purpose**

- Coordinate agency functions and external partnerships.
- Carry out duties and responsibilities per [RCW 28C.30.040](#)

- **Leadership**

- The Governor selects the chair of the work group.

- **Responsibilities**

- Coordinate strategies and actions related to common schools with recommendations.
- Meet at least six times during the calendar year.
- Report progress to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by September 1st annually.



Duties and Responsibilities

- Advance and promote Career Connect WA vision ([RCW 28C.30.040](#))
- Provide budget recommendations by Sept 1 annually ([2024 legislative report](#))
- Support regional leadership and coordination
- Support formation and operation of regional networks
- Develop data enclave for career connected learning led by ERDC
- [CCW Directory](#)



CAWG Membership - Each agency has assigned roles and duties

Department of Labor in consultation with
apprenticeship regulatory council RCW
49.04.010

Department of Health and Human Services
including Vocational Rehabilitation

Education Research and Data Center at the
Office of Fiscal Management

Employment Security Department

Office of the Superintendent of Public
Instruction

State Board of Education

State Board of Community and Technical
Colleges

Student Achievement Council

Workforce Training and Education
Coordinating Board

One representative from the public
baccalaureate institutions

One representative of the independent
four-year institutions of higher education

Department of Children, Youth and Families

Office of the lieutenant governor

Office of the governor



CAWG vision for SFY 2026

- Ensure [RCW alignment with Duties and Responsibilities](#)
- Serve as a hub to analyze the current education and workforce development landscape, support cross-agency collaborations, and help inform policy priorities for career connected learning
- Focus on career connected learning opportunities including work-based learning. Align this work with [WSAC Strategic Action Plan](#) and education and workforce development agencies to increase synergy, collaborative and braided funding opportunities.
- Create a CAWG landing page (like [LEARN](#)) on WSAC Website for access to meeting materials, resources and updates.
- Create CAWG advisory committees e.g. Data Collection, Evaluation, Reporting; Legislative Advisory; etc.



CAWG vision for SFY 2026

- Engage with practitioners supporting students and workers across multiple sectors of education and workforce development ecosystem in WA
- Meet virtually six times:
 - 3 meetings specifically for agencies identified in RCW
 - 3 themed/professional development meetings
 - 3rd Thursday of every other month, 9-10:30, starting 8/21.
 - PD meetings will be recorded and shared on the CAWG landing page;
 - Survey to identify topics and speakers for professional development
- Reassess need and capacity for designated state agency work plans



Proposed meeting topics

What items in the RCW Duties have been achieved?

Are there plans to determine what needs to come to CAWG (use Sub-committees as appropriate)

Review statute

Extent in which we can measure outcomes to meet RCW

- Data Collection subcommittee could support

See us continue the system-involved youth collaboration

- Tom Pennella would like to share what's happening in DCYF

Collaboration with Department of Commerce – robust entrepreneur program for young adults who may have backgrounds in foster care or other areas where entrepreneurship would be a great way to support themselves, their mental health and their identity

Quick recap

The Cross Agency Work Group (COG) meeting focused on updates from various organizations regarding workforce development initiatives and funding challenges, including budget cuts affecting community colleges, K-12 education, and employment programs. The group discussed strategies for supporting youth and young adults from marginalized communities in accessing employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, with plans for upcoming presentations and professional development sessions. The conversation ended with discussions about data collection needs, program evaluation, and the potential of AI in career navigation, with participants agreeing to reassess state agency work plans and focus on measurable outcomes for their initiatives.

Next steps

- Tom Pennella and team to present on system-involved youth at the October 21st COG meeting.
- Jessica to compile and share meeting notes and update the PowerPoint with discussion points.
- Andrew to share the ESD PowerPoint presentation as follow-up to the meeting.
- Kimberly and Jessica to create a COG landing page on the WSAC website with all COG-related resources.
- Kimberly to prepare an analysis of COG duties and responsibilities that have been achieved for the next meeting.
- Kimberly to send out curated CCW information to stakeholders.
- COG members to send Jessica topics they would like to hear about in future meetings.
- Kimberly and team to form data collection and evaluation subcommittee.
- Nicole to share entrepreneurship program resources once completed in the next couple of months.
- Naghmana to share LinkedIn resources tracking funding losses across the United States.

Summary

Climate Workforce Development Updates

Kimberly shared updates and requested input for a curated list she will distribute later. Matt, director of the Washington Climate Corps Network, discussed their continued operations despite budget cuts, granting 2.3 million for climate workforce development, and invited collaboration with organizations serving underrepresented communities. Paulette provided updates on the Wave Scholarship, noting a record number of applicants but its potential

discontinuation, and introduced the new Career Bridge website for career exploration and training information. Marie introduced herself as the Director of Workforce Education at the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, highlighting their role in workforce development.

Community College Funding Challenges

Marie discussed significant funding cuts affecting Washington's community and technical colleges, including reductions in workforce training programs, cybersecurity resources, and healthcare opportunities. She highlighted challenges with federal and state grant administration, particularly for adult basic education and the Basic Food Employment and Training program, while noting that Carl Perkins funding continues to be managed in partnership with OSPI. Marie emphasized the need to navigate new grant guidelines and policies while maintaining alignment with federal requirements for programs serving TANF recipients and low-income individuals.

Higher Education Policy Challenges

Marie discussed the challenges of navigating the rapidly changing landscape of higher education, including various bills, proposals, and workforce visions, which make it difficult to provide clear direction. She expressed concern about the broader impact on individuals seeking education, mentioning issues such as food stamps and child care. Marie noted that while there is no central place to catalog these changes, the state has filed numerous lawsuits to maintain the rule of law. Joyce added that their team is monitoring ongoing litigation, including a NOAA grant involving tribal stewards, and is working on initiatives like guided pathways and AI, despite the distractions.

Federal Funding and Program Updates

Marie discussed concerns about federal program funding and policy changes, noting that while some funds have been upheld, others are pending clarification of practices. Tom, representing DSH, shared updates on staff changes and their commitment to youth employment and housing opportunities, while Rebecca highlighted significant federal budget cuts affecting K-12 education, including reductions in pass-through funding, ESD support, and career connect learning programs. Naghmana announced an upcoming ICSEW lunch and learn event on September 11th to help participants update their resumes and cover letters.

Washington State Apprenticeship Grant Updates

Rebecca highlighted the importance of advocating for public education and government responsibility in providing services, emphasizing the positive stance of Washington State

leaders. Lyle provided updates on the Washington College Grant program, noting that over \$9.2 million was awarded to 2,500 apprentices, with adjustments made during the legislative session affecting eligibility and grant values. Lyle also discussed the Native American Apprentice Assistance program, which distributed about \$1 million, with plans to prioritize renewals and expand to other tribes in the future.

Employment Pipeline Program Termination Update

The meeting covered updates from various participants, including the announcement by Louisa that the Employment Pipeline Program, a navigation program coordinated with the workforce development system, will be terminated due to budget cuts effective September 1. Louisa also highlighted a positive partnership with Wasac to streamline the pathway for individuals to access the Washington College Grant, including the integration of a new portal for document upload and eligibility determination. Jessica encouraged participants to send topics of interest for future COG meetings to her email, and Andrew was set to provide a brief update followed by a deeper discussion after sharing a PowerPoint presentation.

ESD Workforce Funding Challenges

The Employment Security Department (ESD) is navigating significant uncertainty regarding federal funding for workforce development, with funding reduced by 70% locally and over 80% statewide. Andrew highlighted that while the ecosystem has been significantly reduced to 4.7 million, there is a silver lining in updated performance metrics for apprenticeship programs, which are exceeding federal expectations. The team is working on analyzing transition data from pre-apprenticeship to apprenticeship, though this capability is still in development and will require business testing and contracted analysis from WTECB.

Cross Agency Work Group Overview

The Cross Agency Work Group (COG) meeting, led by Kimberly, outlined its purpose and responsibilities, including overseeing career-connected learning and coordinating agency functions. The group aims to analyze the education and workforce landscape, align with the WASAC Strategic Action Plan, and create a community of practice with a new COG landing page on the WASAC website. Virtual meetings will be held every other month, with three meetings for required agencies and three themed professional development sessions, focusing on collaboration and synergy among participants.

2024 Planning and Data Focus

The meeting focused on planning for the upcoming year, including reassessing the need for state agency work plans due to budget cuts and reviewing proposed meeting topics. Rebecca

suggested analyzing the duties and responsibilities statute to determine what tasks need to be addressed by COG, while Andrew raised concerns about the lack of data collection for measuring outcomes of programs. Kimberly agreed with these suggestions and mentioned that a new subcommittee would focus on data collection and evaluation, emphasizing the importance of measurable outcomes to demonstrate the ROI of their initiatives.

Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Strategies

The group discussed strategies to support youth and young adults, particularly those from marginalized communities, in accessing employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Tom volunteered to present on system-involved youth at the October 21st meeting, with Nicole offering to co-present on an upcoming entrepreneurship program for young adults. The group explored the potential of AI in career navigation and entrepreneurship, with Nicole highlighting the importance of incorporating well-being and critical thinking skills in their program. The conversation ended with a call for additional input on career pathways for Washingtonians, with Kimberly requesting materials to share with stakeholders.