



TO: Student Services Commission and Councils
FROM: Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Student Services
RE: **2022 Spring Student Services State Board Report**

Aim Higher Washington Financial Aid Collaboration Update

SBCTC and our colleges are continuing their active participation in the Aim Higher Washington financial aid “train-the-trainer” collaboration. A steering group is composed of SBCTC staff, Student Services Commission (WSSSC) and Financial Aid Council (FAC) leaders, representatives from WSAC and 4-year institutions (both public and independent), and community-based organizations. Training in financial aid basics and navigation is offered on a regular basis. In the months ahead, the steering group will play a coordinating role in implementation of several legislatively funded financial aid initiatives.

Some examples include:

- A pilot program pairing outreach specialists at four of our colleges with high schools and students in low FAFSA-completion areas of the state
- Funding for our colleges to partner with community-based organizations to conduct financial aid outreach in communities, with an emphasis on communities of color
- Coordination with WSAC and public libraries on financial aid marketing and community outreach

WSAC maintains a [web page](#) listing financial aid training and other activities connected to our collaboration. Other priorities in the coming months include moving toward a regional approach and involving community-based organizations more intentionally in our work. For more information, contact [Joe Holliday](#) or [Yokiko Hayashi-Saguil](#) in SBCTC Student Services.

Implementing Student Services Legislative Priorities

Several bills and provisos in the recently completed Legislative Session will require focused efforts in Student Services at both SBCTC and the colleges. A workgroup has been formed to guide implementation of “Sam’s Bill,” the hazing prevention and reduction bill. The act mandates anti-hazing courses for students and employees, among other requirements. Financial aid outreach pilot programs were created in House Bill 1835 and through a budget proviso that will fund college outreach to community-based organizations. The pilot Supports for Students Experiencing Homelessness (SSEH) program received funding to expand to include all community and technical colleges on an opt-in basis beginning in July 2022.

Legislative Intern Update

The Student Services Legislative Interns will be extending their time with SBCTC to help support the work of increasing student voice in the future legislative sessions. The team is thrilled to have both Melissa Littleton and MJ Mencias stay through the month of May before they graduate later this spring.

Promising Practices Exchange Webinar Series

On Thursday, April 21, 2022, from 1:00–3:00 p.m. we will present the next Promising Practices webinar on the topic of Meeting Student Basic Needs. Hosts President Sara Thompson Tweedy (Big Bend Community College) and Jennifer Dellinger (SBCTC) will introduce a panel of speakers who will share their efforts to meet student basic needs. Five colleges will be featured in the webinar: Edmonds College, Green River College, Lower Columbia College, Shoreline Community College, and South Puget Sound Community College.

[Registration is now open!](#)

Mental Health Counseling & Services Pilot Program

Grays Harbor College, Lake Washington Institute of Technology, North Seattle College, and Wenatchee Valley College have been focused on implementing strategies to increase student access to mental health counseling and services. Early achievements include expansion of a college CARE team, quarterly assessment of counseling services, collaboration with Student Life to enhance dialogues about mental health, and broadening community partnerships. Each college has hired additional mental health counselors or sought out tele-behavioral-health options for students. The pilot colleges are developing strong data collection strategies to further inform their strategies and to serve as a guide for other colleges. For more information, contact [Christine McMullin](#) at SBCTC.

Student Support Programs Updates

The Student Support Programs (SSP) Team continues its efforts to integrate across programs, within Student Services, and across the Education Division. SSP staff are pleased to be presenting the next Promising Practice Exchange: Meeting Student Basic Needs, as well as working with the BEdA Team to present on braided funding during the BEdA 2022 Biennial Conference. SSP staff also continue serving on the planning committee for a virtual summer 2022 Funding Forum that will focus on the role of funding a student's pathway and the development of funding plans that prioritize multiple funding streams.

Upcoming Meetings, Trainings and Forums:

- April 21, 1:00-3:00pm - Promising Practices Exchange: Meeting Student Basic Needs (virtual)
- May 10, 8:30am-12:30pm - Spring '22 Student Support Programs System Training (virtual)
- May 18, 1:00-3:00pm - Supporting Postsecondary Students' Basic Needs - Statewide Learning Community (virtual)
- June 6-9, 9:00am-3:00pm - BFET '22 Forum (virtual)

Canvas Community Reminder

The Student Support Programs Canvas Community is your resource hub for WorkFirst, BFET, SSEH, SEAG and WRT. Important program information, updates, and reminders are communicated solely via this Canvas Community. Take care to enable course notifications in your Canvas account to ensure you are getting the most up-to-date information for your programs.

Utilize the Student Supports Canvas Community for:

- Grant Announcements
- Funding Surveys
- Notifications from DSHS
- Recorded Trainings
- Helpful Forms and Links

[Katelynn Orellana](#) at SBCTC can provide technical assistance.

Student Support Programs Fiscal Specialist (Temporary Full-Time) Position:

Application Deadline extended to April 29th, 2022

The Student Support Programs has an open position for a Fiscal Specialist. This position is full-time, seven-month, temporary beginning May 1 through November 30, 2022 and supports the colleges and State Board by strengthening integration and provides fiscal training, support and technical assistance, and monitoring for the Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) and WorkFirst programs. The position also supports the work of other Student Support Programs. For full position description and application process visit the [SBCTC Job Posting](#).

Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness (SSEH) Pilot

As of the end of fall quarter 2022, the eight colleges currently participating in the SSEH Pilot had supported 628 homeless, at risk of homelessness and/or former foster care students this fiscal year. The most common accommodations and services provided to SSEH eligible students included housing, case

management, and food support. Eligible students were also provided additional services that including access to laundry and shower/hygiene support, secure storage and mailstop, technology, and transportation. During the 2022 Washington State Legislative Session, SBCTC secured additional funding through budget proviso to expand the SSEH Pilot to all 34 community and technical colleges. A request for application will be released April 2022.

Student Emergency Assistance (SEAG) Program

SEAG Program colleges are processing a volume of emergency assistance requests that outpace available funds as federal relief dollars run low. As of the end of fall quarter 2022, SEAG Program colleges had processed more than \$1,710,358 in emergency assistance to 1558 students. SBCTC received \$820,000 of requests for additional funding from the colleges and was only able to reallocate \$30,000 of funds returned by other SEAG Program colleges to fulfill those requests. The Student Support Programs team is working to provide additional support to the colleges to help identify opportunities for triaging emergency assistance requests to other funding opportunities available through other programs.

Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET)

FFY23 Budget workbooks are slated to be released in the beginning of June with a tight turnaround as usual. FFY23 BFET Grant Application are expected to be released on or about July 1, 2022, with a due date on or around August 11th. Watch for more information to come through CANVAS.

SBCTC is working with United Way of King County and other partners to assist with state-wide messaging about SNAP and BFET to support common eligibility and access information across partners, individuals, and families.

The Winter/Spring Funding survey was completed at the end of March. Results should be published by late April. The next Funding Survey is schedule for the end of May.

WorkFirst Program

In April 2022, the results of the WorkFirst Delivery Agreement and Student Support winter funding survey results announced in Canvas. The SBCTC accepted 1.8 million in system returned funding. The deadline to adjust WorkFirst budgets in OBIS is Monday, April 25, 2022.

FY23 WorkFirst Delivery Agreement Grant application deadline was March 24, 2022. Prior to the application deadline colleges had opportunity to notify the SBCTC to accept a lower grant award. Several colleges took advantage of the WorkFirst funding policies and requested to accept a lower grant award. The SBCTC will provide FY23 WorkFirst Delivery/Student Support Funds grant application feedback in OGMS. Colleges are required to respond by the end of the April if feedback requires college follow up.

Student Success & Strategic Initiatives

- The Guided Pathways Student Success Institute on Wednesday, April 14th will engage participants in questions such as, “What does racial equity in student success look like as a mirror to faculty and staff success in the areas of outreach, recruitment, campus learning communities, onboarding, retention, and promotion?”
- The 2022-2023 Guided Pathways Implementation Work Plans are due April 11th. Coaches, SBCTC staff and critical friends across the system will read the plans and collaborate to develop feedback to colleges during the Readers Retreat, held May 11-13. Colleges will receive feedback on the work plans by June 1.
- [Register to join](#) the Student Success Center for “Exploring Alumni Outcomes”. This webinar will serve to:
 - Demonstrate how this data can be leveraged in the context of Guided Pathways
 - Provide an overview of the data deliverables
 - Answer questions and share ongoing support resources

Accessibility

- Revisions to the PDF and Canvas modules of the Micro Courses are now complete! Learners can [sign up for the Micro Courses](#).
- The public facing [Library of Accessibility Resources](#) reflects these changes too.
- New [Events page](#) added to the [Accessibility Center](#) page to share previous and upcoming training opportunities.
- Web Accessibility 101 training for SBCTC developers and web content managers is slated for May 19th.
- Policy Associate Monica Olsson is collaborating with Monica Wilson, the director of the Student Success Center to deliver agency-wide Disability Justice 101 training.
- How to [Create Accessible Videos Guide](#) now available!
- CATO participated in [IMS Global Accessibility Task Force](#) and the vendor grading rubric pilot.
- Policy summary of [HB 2008](#) sent to Disability Support Services Council.
- [ctcLink Accessibility open forums](#) continue to take place every second Tuesday of the month.