

Report to the Legislature

Expansion of the Basic Food Employment and Training Program (BFET)

As required by RCW 74.04.535

November 2016

Economic Services Administration
PO Box 45470
Olympia, WA 98504-5470
(360) 725-4600
Fax: (360) 725-4905

Basic Food Employment and Training Program

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Washington State Department of Social & Health Services

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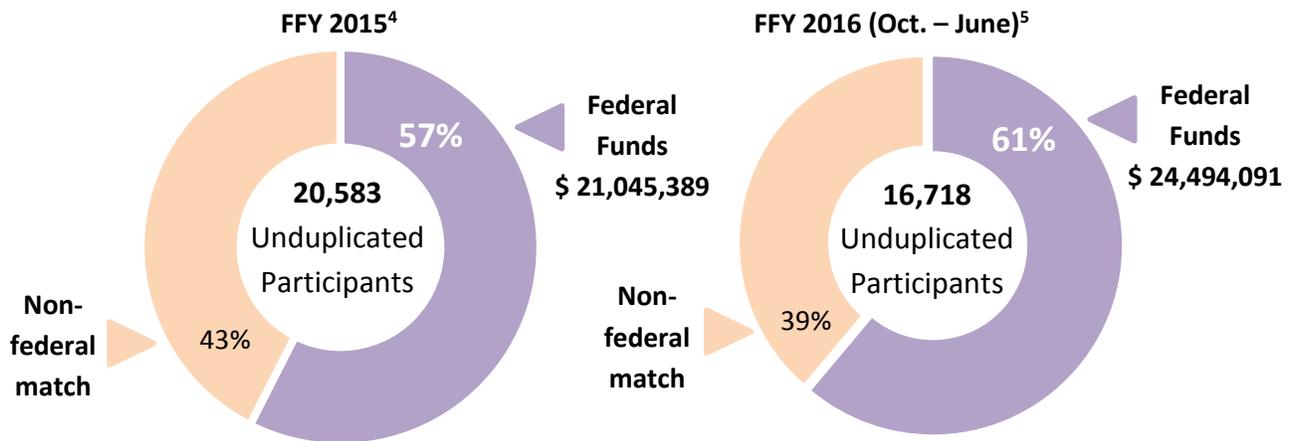
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Washington State Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) program provides job search, job search training, self-directed job search, educational services, skills training, and other employment opportunities to Basic Food (also called Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) recipients who are not participating in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) WorkFirst work program. Services are provided through community or technical colleges and/or community based organizations (CBO). Washington’s BFET program is the national model for SNAP employment and training services to help recipients achieve self-sufficiency.

RCW 74.04.535 requires the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS or the Department), Employment Security Department (ESD), and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to work in partnership to expand BFET (formerly known as food stamps employment and training). This statute also requires DSHS to track and report certain program outcomes annually, including those achieved through performance-based contracts.

This report covers Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 and a portion of FFY 2016 (Oct. 2015 – June 2016).

Category	FFY 2015	FFY 2016
SBCTC Student Achievement Momentum points ¹	18,744	18,805
Number of participants who enter employment after participation in BFET ²	61%	
Average wage of jobs attained ³	\$13.12/hr.	



¹ Student Achievement Momentum Points is an SBCTC initiative aimed at measuring colleges and awarding funds to them for improvements in the significant steps students take towards higher achievement.

² Employment result four quarters after BFET exit, eMAPS Q520 report, generated Aug. 19, 2016.

³ *Id.*

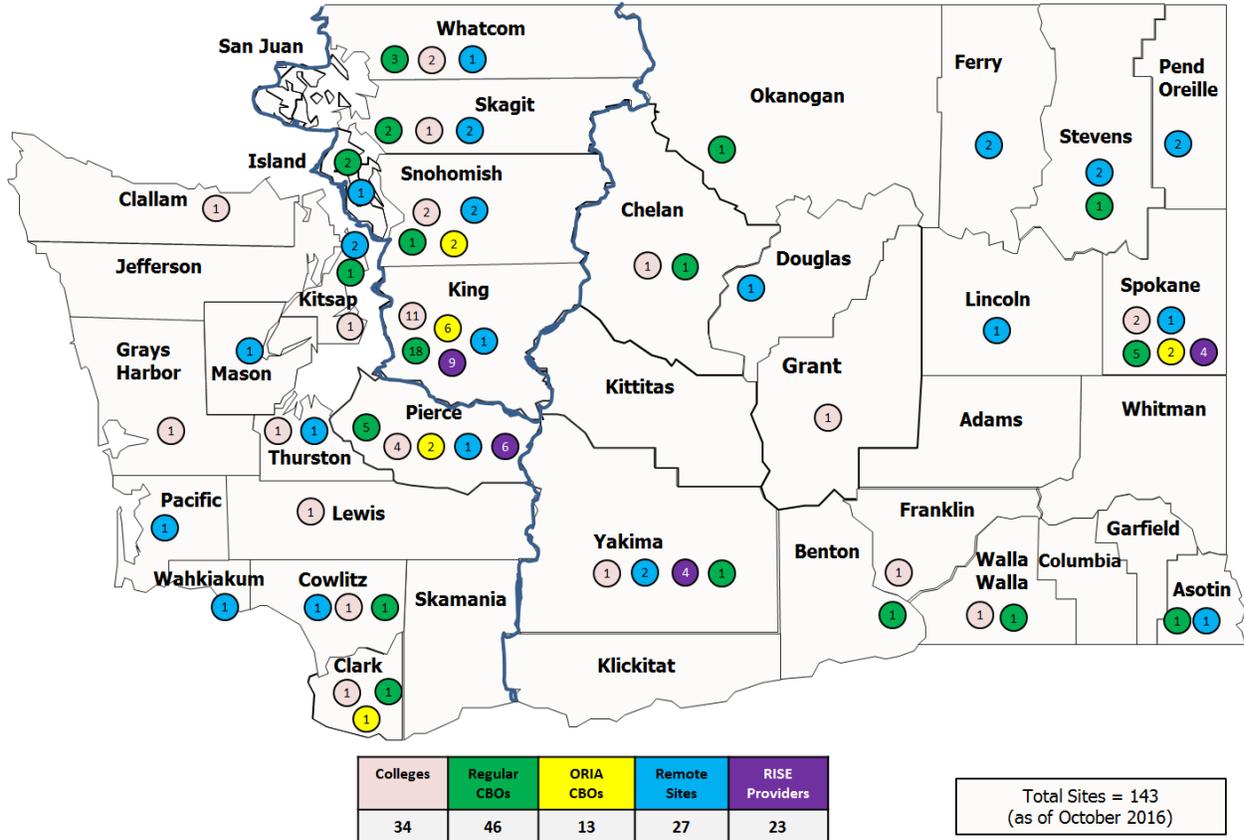
⁴ FFY 2015 amended state plan and includes mid-year 100% carryover grant. Data from eMAPS assignment 3884.

⁵ FFY 2016 amended state plan and includes mid-year 100% carryover grant. Data count from eMAPS assignment 3884.

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The map below shows BFET sites offered through colleges, CBOs and ESD offices, as of October 2016. It also includes site locations for the \$22 million BFET pilot, Resources to Initial Successful Employment (RISE), which began at the end of 2015:



The Department’s partnership with SBCTC has expanded BFET services to include all 34 community and technical colleges across the state. Future BFET service expansion depends on a number of factors, including availability of partners with the necessary local funds as third party match to draw down BFET allocation, program and service needs in an area, and the overall BFET strategic plan. The Department continues efforts to recruit CBOs and tribal nations in unserved or underserved parts of the state to provide wraparound services to support participant success.

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A. Program Background

BFET is Washington State's name for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) program. It started as a pilot in October 2005 in Seattle with four community based organizations (CBOs) and one college. It is now statewide with over 40 CBOs and all 34 state colleges offering services. BFET provides E&T services along with critical supports to Basic Food (SNAP) recipients. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has federal oversight authority for BFET.

BFET serves SNAP recipients age 16 and older, who are not participating in the TANF program and want to participate in E&T services voluntarily to improve their skills and gain employment. As a partner in the state's comprehensive workforce development system, it serves low-income individuals, indigent workers, and employers by encouraging financial independence from public assistance through personal responsibility and gainful employment.

BFET leverages collaborative partnerships with state, educational, and community agencies through contracts between DSHS and numerous agencies including the SBCTC, ESD offices, and dozens of CBOs. This collaborative partnership leverages each partner's particular strength: community and technical colleges provide education and training to increase an individual's employability while ESD and CBOs assist the job ready individual in entering the job market. Many participants are co-enrolled in BFET services through multiple agencies to provide wraparound services and maximize outcomes.

BFET is a recognized national model for a successful employment and training program due to several factors. The program emphasizes skill building and post-secondary certificate attainment as the key to long term self-sufficiency. BFET provides wrap around services to work in tandem with the skill building strategy to prevent or mitigate barriers from derailing a participant's progress. And, labor market information determines which local economic areas are in-demand and programs are designed to help establish pathways to fill those vacancies. BFET's innovative use of technology for referrals, case management and communication between DSHS and providers and bi-lateral communication between providers to each other on shared cases also boost the program's success and national recognition as a leader in this field.

FNS regularly invites Washington State to share best practices to assist other states to develop and strengthen their SNAP E&T programs. State agencies, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions from other states visit Washington State each year to learn about our BFET program, service delivery model, strategic planning group, and technology interface.

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BFET provides employability assessments and a menu of services to eligible participants, including:

- Participant skills and needs assessment;
- Case management;
- Job readiness training;
- Basic skills/English as Second Language (ESL) training (e.g., literacy, math, vocational ESL, High School Equivalency preparation);
- Vocational training;
- job search assistance;
- job placement; and
- Participant Reimbursement (e.g., transportation, childcare, hygiene, clothing, etc.).

Typical classes BFET participants attend at local community and technical colleges include:

- Business Management and Administration - The highest enrollments in this career cluster are in office management, business administration, and accounting;
- Health Services - Health services include programs such as medical, dental, and nursing assistants, radiation technicians, and medical records clerks;
- Information Technology - This cluster includes computer systems technician programs, computer programming, and digital media;
- Manufacturing - Welding makes up the majority of students in this career cluster;
- Nursing- One of the largest populations of BFET students are involved in Practical Nursing and Registered Nursing classes. Nursing assistants are classified in the health services sector;
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics - Includes auto mechanic and truck/bus drivers; and
- Basic Skills.

B. Program Funding

FNS supports the state SNAP E&T programs through several different funding streams:

100 Percent Grant Funding

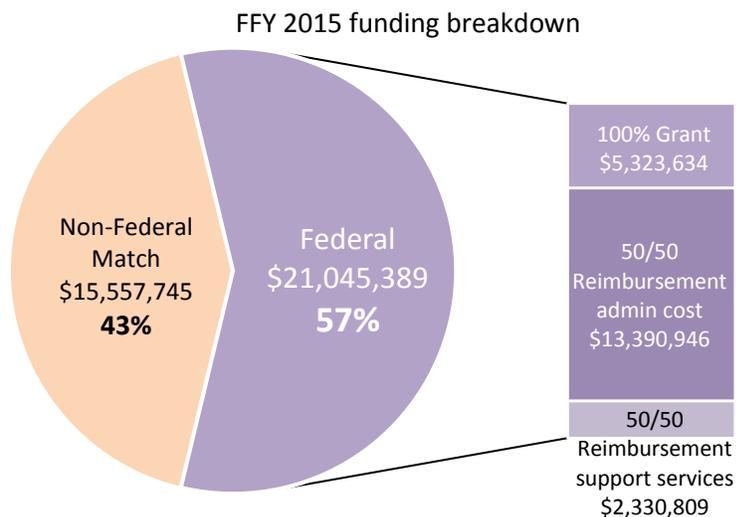
Historically, the federal government distributes roughly \$90 million annually in 100% Federal funds to assist in the administration of SNAP E&T programs. Washington primarily uses these funds to administer the statewide program, while a small portion is reserved to start services in underserved geographic areas and help underserved populations. This funding does not require third party match to draw down the allocation. It fluctuates annually based on the federal

formula related to the number of work registrants⁶ in the state. After initial issuance and approval, states may request additional 100% Federal funds not spent by other states through the carryover funds process. Washington State regularly requests carryover funds to provide additional support to the BFET program.

50/50 Reimbursement Funding

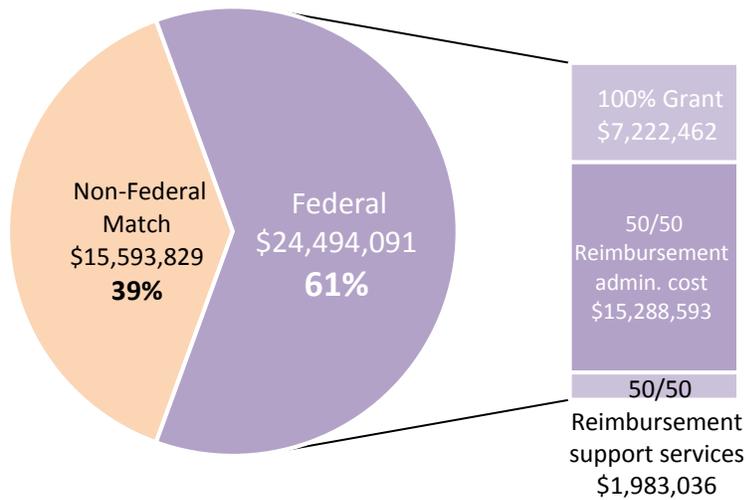
In addition to the 100% federal funds allocation, States are also offered 50/50 reimbursement funding for SNAP E&T programs to cover administrative costs and participant reimbursements (support services needed to help participants engage in services). This funding is distinguished from 100% funds because the federal portion is a reimbursement, not a grant. BFET providers must initially cover the cost of program operations then receive reimbursement for 50% of the cost after providing services and incurring a cost. The Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA)/DSHS leverages approximately \$432,000 in GF-S each year to provide match to serve refugees and immigrants through the BFET program.

The BFET program uses the 50/50 reimbursement model to fund the vast majority of BFET services in order to help ensure sustainability and scalability. Relying primarily on the 50/50 reimbursement model helps insulate the program from fluctuations in the limited 100% funds and supports program growth based on each community’s capacity to provide match funding. Since BFET leverages state, local and private funds, it increases existing capacity for colleges and CBOs. Finally, this funding model creates new funding streams for colleges and CBOs to pay for much needed support services while ensuring partnership because everyone has invested in the program.



⁶ [WAC 388-444-0005](#)

FFY 2016 funding breakdown



Total budgeted costs are expected to rise by 11% in FFY 2017 due to caseload growth with increased demand for employment and training services, as well as adding new partner organizations.

C. Coordination with Other Employment Programs

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- Washington State’s BFET program is a partner in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan. Local level providers integrate BFET services with their other services, such as WIOA, to expand the reach of all services available at their sites. As a WIOA partner, BFET provides enhanced services to Basic Food recipients not participating in the state’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. These services include: job search, self-directed job search, job search training, educational services, skills training, and post-employment support services. BFET collaborates with the Workforce Training Board, ESD, and SBCTC to identify and target emerging industries, develop career pathways and make credentialing available to participants.

The Washington State BFET program also works with numerous other E&T programs:

- Resource to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE) - Washington State’s three year, \$22 million SNAP E&T pilot, funded by the USDA - FNS through a provision in the Agricultural Act of 2014. RISE services are administered through CBOs and colleges throughout the pilot counties (King, Pierce, Spokane, and Yakima). The RISE target population includes SNAP work registrants who are homeless, veterans, Limited English proficiency (LEP), long term unemployed, and non-

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custodial parents (NCP) owing arrears, with barriers to employment and self-sufficiency. RISE enhances the current BFET program by adding a standardized approach to comprehensive case management (CCM), Strategies for Success training, and work-based learning (WBL). All participants in RISE are randomly assigned to either RISE (treatment) or BFET (control) groups on a 50/50 ratio, with youth assigned at a 70/30 ratio. RISE will work in collaboration with BFET, as clients move through the RISE pathway.

Employment Pipeline:

- Employment Pipeline is a DSHS-administered program available for individuals looking to find immediate employment. Employment Pipeline assists DSHS clients to navigate the various employment and training programs and resources, assess employment needs, complete referrals, and provide retention services. BFET and Employment Pipeline collaborate at community events to provide client access to employment and training resources.

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA):

- The [Limited English Proficient Pathway](#) (LEP) program helps refugees and parents receiving TANF benefits to become employed.
- The [Refugee Special Employment Needs](#) program helps refugees with substantial barriers to employment receive intensive case management, social adjustment counseling, and employment placement services.
- The [ORIA Basic Food Employment & Training](#) program helps people receiving Basic Food benefits get jobs through voluntary participation in job search, training, education, or workfare activities that promote self-sufficiency. ORIA works in partnership with the State's BFET program to ensure that refugees in the U.S. five years access this available service.

III. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR FFY 2015 - 2016

A. Participants and Services

BFET offers services in 30 of 39 counties in Washington State. The Department and other public and private agencies operate a 50/50 match program with 46 CBOs, 34 community and technical colleges, and ORIA. ORIA contracts with 13 CBOs, with some overlap with non-ORIA contracted CBOs, across the state to administer services to increase access to E&T services for refugees and immigrants. Community and Technical Colleges and some CBOs provide Vocational Education and Basic Education to improve vocation and basic education to increase employability and long term self-sufficiency. Job Search is primarily offered through CBOs and WorkSource offices to assist job

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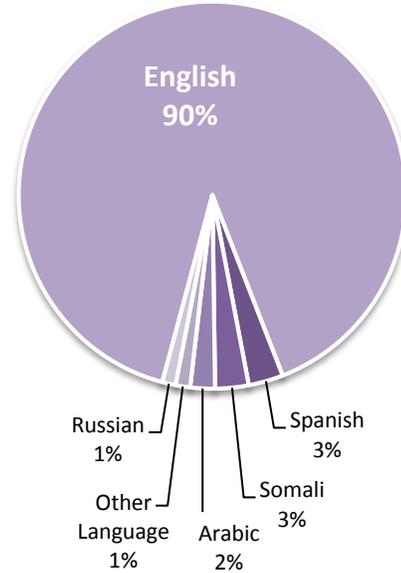
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ready individuals enter the job market. Participant may receive multiple E&T services simultaneously.

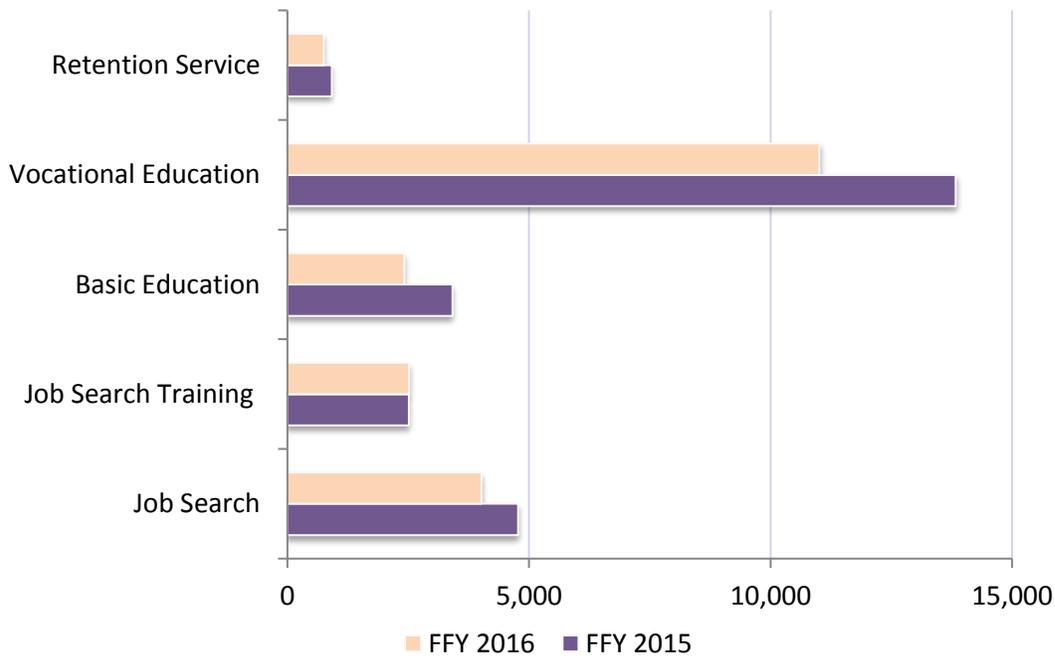
B. Participant Demographics⁷

FFY 2105-2016 by Language Group

FFY	Total participants	Women	Men
2015	20,583	12,239	8,344
2016	16,718	10,070	6,648

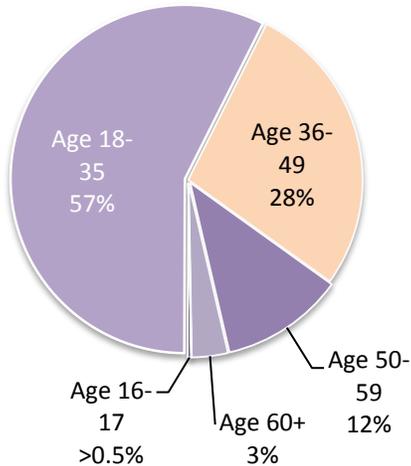


FFY 2015 -16 BFET Service Usage by Count

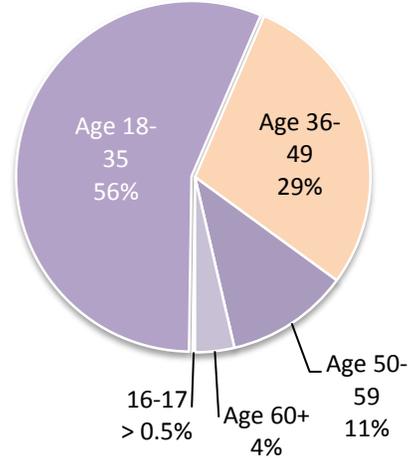


⁷ Data covers FFY 2015 and partial FFY 2016 (Oct. 2015 – June 2016).

FFY 2015 by Age Group



FFY 2016 by Age Group



C. Employment outcomes

- Current BFET Participants - A significant number of BFET participants are working while receiving E&T services.

FFY	Avg. # of Women Working per Month	Avg. age	Avg. Wage/Mo.	Avg. # of Men Working per Month	Avg. age	Avg. Wage/Mo.
2015	1,488	33	\$ 885	712	35	\$ 959
2016	1,670	33	\$ 908	767	35	\$ 1,005

Source: EMAPS assignment number 3884, generated Aug. 24, 2016.

- Former BFET Participants are followed for several quarters after post-exit. Most current information⁸ shows exiters from the 4th Quarter 2014 and 1st Quarter 2015. Our data shows approximately 60% of former BFET participants are employed two and four quarters after leaving services. Moreover, average wage continues to rise after completing BFET services.

FFY	Exit	Cohort	After 2 Quarters			After 4 Quarters		
			Total Employed	Median Wages	Employment Rate	Total Employed	Median Wages	Employment Rate
2015	2014 Q4	2,925	1,716	\$11.86	59%	1,778	\$12.82	61%
	2015 Q1	3,019	1,884	\$12.20	62%	1,830	\$13.12	61%

⁸ Employment result four quarters after BFET exit, eMAPS Q520 report, generated Aug. 19, 2016.

D. New BFET Providers - FFY 2016:

1. Career Path Services – Pierce County

Career Path Services is a private non-profit corporation that was established in 1971. Career Path Services has demonstrated experience providing direct workforce services in multiple workforce areas in Washington State including Pierce County. The corporation provides job search, job search training/tools, and job retention and support services, through two agencies with 19 total locations. They assist hard-to-serve clients such as ex-offenders, homeless, veterans, and youth drop-outs. Partnering with housing agencies, this CBO really provides the wrap around services needed to stabilize lives through self-sufficiency.

2. CARES of Washington- Kitsap and Pierce County

CARES of Washington operates two BFET services. The first service is a partnership with community colleges in which schools provide education and training, and CARES provides case management, job search assistance, and support services consistent with Washington's BFET Contractor Procedures Manual. All of which is designed to help increase college attainment and move participants to self-sufficiency. The second service is a program that provides BFET participants career planning and development, job readiness training, job search assistance, job placement, barrier removal support and soft skills coaching so each participant can get a living wage job and achieve self-sufficiency.

3. Community Action of Skagit County – Skagit County

Community Action of Skagit County is a private non-profit human service agency formed in 1979. It provides quality, goal-based educational services for the people of Skagit County so that they can achieve economic independence, self-sufficiency, and increased social and civic engagement. Trainings include High School Equivalency Exam (GED), Basic Skills classes and tutoring, and ESL classes provide contextualized instruction to help students improve their English language reading, writing, speaking and listening.

4. Lower Columbia Community Action Program (LCCAP) - Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties

LCCAP was formed in 1964, as part of President Johnson's War on Poverty. LCCAP Career and Family Development Programs provide vocational and career coaching to help people improve their lives through training and employment. Eligible participants can receive more intensive employment and training services, including assessment of interests, skills and needs, job training, education, work experience, job placement, and wage progression services.

5. **Opportunity Council (OC)**– Island County

OC is a private, non-profit Community Action Agency serving low-income people, acting as a catalyst for positive change, both in the community and in the lives of the people we serve. Their services range from addressing immediate and crisis-oriented needs (food, emergency shelter, and eviction prevention) to longer-term programs that promote self-reliance and financial stability.

OC offers a two-part BFET program: 1) a partnership with Whatcom Community College and Bellingham Technical College to co-enroll participants to transition them into the employment market after training, and 2) a stand-alone services including assessment, job readiness and job search activities, support services, career planning, job retention, case management and referrals to other programs and services. Participants are identified through homeless housing programs, Basic Food outreach, early learning and family resource programs, the Community Resource Center, and DSHS Community Service Office (CSO) staff.

6. **WorkSource (WS)** – various counties

WS is the name for the “one-stop” system in Washington State. It is an integrated, high quality delivery system for an array of employment and training services designed to enhance the effectiveness and coordination of employer and job-seeker services. ESD operates the offices below. Employment Services include:

- Completion of an intake, assessments, development of an employment plan;
- Receive one on one assistance to identify short and long term employment/training goals;
- Introduction to career exploration tools and resources;
- Information on the local labor market to help identify a career pathway;
- Support service assistance;
- One on one assistance to prepare specialized work search tools, including targeted resumes, master application and 60-second Commercial;
- Receive one-on-one employment coaching sessions to maintain employment and progress on their career ladder;
- Access to the WorkSource resource room and all available workshop and activities;
- Facilitated job development assistance to include Work Experience opportunities;
- Access to Job Club activities;
- Access to job skill development opportunities through WorkSource;
- Referrals to post-employment training opportunities;

- Connections to community resources; and
- Career and wage progression opportunities.

WS offers BFET program participants job search preparation and assistance that leads to rapid employment. BFET participants are assigned a personal Career Coach providing them with one on one skills assessment, barrier removal, case management, preparing their application, resume, interviewing skills, job search strategies, and referrals to employers. BFET participants will also receive support services as needed. Vancouver WorkSource's BFET services are provided exclusively to appropriate Basic Food recipients.

Locations added in FFY 2016 are:

- a. Columbia Basin
 - b. Colville
 - c. Spokane
 - d. Vancouver
 - e. Whidbey
 - f. Yakima
7. **YouthCare** – King County

YouthCare offers a continuum of services, including employment, for homeless youth and youth at risk of homelessness, up to age 24 in the greater Seattle area. All employment programs are supported by intensive case management and linkage to education, as appropriate. BFET services are offered to young adults living in their transitional living programs who receive housing, basic needs, case management and life skills through those programs. Employment services include access to internships (not paid through BFET), job readiness training, job search assistance, placement support, and retention services. YouthCare also offer BFET services in partnership with FareStart as part of our Barista Training and Education Program to provide in-depth training for the espresso, food service and related customer service industries. Classroom instruction and case management is provided at the James W. Ray Orion Center in downtown Seattle. Classroom instruction and paid work readiness training are offered over an eight week program.

IV. BFET STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT MOMENTUM POINTS

Academic Year: July 2015 - June 2016

Basic Food Education and Training Student Achievement Momentum Points



Academic Year: 2015-16

Title	Basic Skills	College Readiness English	College Readiness Math	First 15 Credits	First 30 Credits	First 45 Credits	Quantitative/Computation	Retention Point	Completion Points	Total Points
Bates	192	73	119	154	116	87	43	113	66	963
Bellevue	34	48	99	98	86	73	46	168	53	705
Bellingham	19	21	116	110	93	109	78	155	50	751
Big Bend	65	13	44	43	31	36	16	59	27	334
Cascadia	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	4
Centralia	54	67	109	74	57	64	47	110	27	609
Clark	75	109	115	96	88	88	54	229	71	925
Clover Park	92	82	177	93	99	112	47	165	69	936
Columbia Basin	25	24	32	25	27	29	13	59	8	242
Edmonds	137	25	41	60	55	58	27	115	33	551
Everett	59	18	8	37	33	23	2	54	17	251
Grays Harbor	92	43	55	37	41	31	20	74	10	403
Green River	159	36	84	64	55	40	22	121	44	625
Highline	63	53	46	75	47	41	29	100	13	467
Lake Washington	31	19	29	59	48	35	32	82	25	360
Lower Columbia	83	122	170	61	49	52	48	110	18	713
Olympic	39	111	173	98	82	81	39	195	34	852
Peninsula	78	56	114	72	63	60	42	111	42	638
Pierce Fort Steilacoom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pierce Puyallup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Renton	40	18	19	48	34	32	8	48	32	279
Seattle Central	106	70	47	78	53	42	9	104	16	525
Seattle North	102	29	20	71	35	15	12	57	19	360
Seattle South	68	37	38	174	153	106	40	183	30	829
Seattle Vocational Institute	57	0	0	57	49	18	0	44	33	258
Shoreline	96	9	16	62	45	45	16	72	38	399
Skagit Valley	152	50	48	100	61	63	58	120	28	680
South Puget Sound	51	52	73	50	39	34	29	81	18	427
Spokane	376	82	136	195	143	131	96	284	64	1,507
Spokane Falls	13	33	39	69	51	62	24	93	26	410
Tacoma	130	133	267	140	117	93	91	243	52	1,266
Walla Walla	59	34	41	69	56	43	53	126	60	541
Wenatchee Valley	2	15	15	13	20	25	2	47	16	155
Whatcom	78	47	63	52	48	43	20	102	28	481
Yakima Valley	33	45	66	32	31	35	18	69	30	359
Totals	2,660	1,574	2,419	2,466	2,006	1,807	1,081	3,695	1,097	18,805

Source: DataWarehouse

Run Date: 08/23/2016

Criteria: UACODE = 'BF'

NOTE:

Student Achievement Momentum Points is a State Board Initiative which began in 2006, and is aimed at measuring colleges and awarding funds to them for improvements in the significant steps students take towards higher achievement. Each point represents a BFET student reaching the goal or achievement described in each column. Some totals may include multiple achievements for the same student. In other words, a student may achieve a goal in more than one category, and may also achieve more than one level gain in Basic Skills. These achievement points, which are awarded by SBCTC are meaningful for all students across demographic characteristics (race, age, income, employment status), academic program or entering skill levels (basic skills, remedial, workforce education, academic transfer), intensity of enrollment (part-time or full-time enrollment), and type of institution attended (urban, rural, large, small, community college, technical college). Rigorous data analysis has identified achievement points that once accomplished, substantially improve students' chances of completing degrees and certificates.

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V. PROGRAM SERVICES

A. ORIA

ORIA is located within DSHS' Economic Services Administration, Community Services Division. The BFET program through ORIA (sometimes referred to as ORIA BFET) offers the same services statewide as the general or mainstream BFET program with a focus on providing culturally and linguistically appropriate employment and training services to refugees and immigrants.

Services under the ORIA BFET program include:

- Job Search
- ESL training
- Vocational education and training
- Case management
- Job retention services
- Support services

Current contractors through ORIA include:

Asian Counseling and Referral (ACRS)	TRAC Associates Pierce
Neighborhood House	TRAC Associates Snohomish County
Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA)	WorkSource, Spokane
Refugee Federation Service Center (RFSC)	World Relief Seattle
Refugee Immigrant Services Northwest (RISNW)	World Relief Spokane
Tacoma Community House	World Relief Tri-Cities
TRAC Associates King	

B. Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

DSHS contracts directly with CBOs, including WorkSource and county E&T programs, to provider BFET services statewide. Main services include barrier removal through case management, job search and job readiness training. Some CBOs also offer vocational and basic education to enhance employability. List of current CBOs include:

Apprenticeship & Nontraditional Employment for Women (ANEW)	Opportunity Council – Whatcom County
Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS)	Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA)

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Career Path Services	Pierce County Community Connections
Cares of Washington-King County	Port Jobs
Cares of Washington-Kitsap County	Puget Sound Training Center
Community Action of Skagit County	Refugee Federation Service Center
Courage360	Seattle Jobs Initiative
FareStart	State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)
Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic	Tacoma Community House
Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic-Yakima	TRAC Associates-King County
Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region	WorkSource Columbia Basin
Goodwill of the Seattle	WorkSource Colville
Housing Hope	WorkSource Spokane
Lower Columbia Community Action Program	WorkSource Vancouver
King County Jobs Initiative	WorkSource Walla Walla
Multi-service Center	WorkSource Whidbey
Neighborhood House of Washington	WorkSource Yakima
Neighborhood House of Washington-Kent	YouthCare
Northwest Indian College	YWCA of Seattle and King County
Opportunity Council – Island County	YWCA of Spokane

C. Community and Technical Colleges

The BFET program role for the participating Washington community & technical colleges is to meet the urgent need to educate more low income participants to higher levels of skill and knowledge to help this population transition to self-sufficiency.

All 34 colleges provide BFET services through a contract with the SBCTC. The colleges provide services designed to help students attain skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency and include vocational education, Adult Basic Education (ABE), ESL, High School Equivalency and participant support services. Some colleges also offer case management, job search and job readiness training.

Colleges providing BFET services are:

Bates Technical College	Bellevue College
Bellingham Technical College	Big Bend Community College

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Cascadia Community College	Centralia College
Clark College	Clover Park Technical College
Columbia Basin College	Edmonds Community College
Everett Community College	Grays Harbor College
Green River Community College	Highline Community College
Lake Washington Institute of Technology	Lower Columbia College
North Seattle College	Olympic College
Peninsula College	Pierce College District
Renton Technical College	Seattle Central College
Seattle Vocational Institute	Shoreline Community College
Skagit Valley College	South Puget Sound Community College
South Seattle College	Spokane Community College
Spokane Falls Community College	Tacoma Community College
Walla Walla Community College	Wenatchee Valley College
Whatcom Community College	Yakima Valley Community College

As the lead contractor, SBCTC takes an active role in facilitating program planning and the future growth of the BFET program. SBCTC is involved in and supportive of developing and presenting at the annual BFET training forum and strategic planning work sessions. Additionally, they provide program overview and clarification of policy to colleges.

VI. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS ANTICIPATED FOR FFY 2017

A. Anticipated New Providers - FFY 2017:

1. Partners in Careers (new ORIA contractor) - Clark County

PIC assists individuals to become economically self-sufficient by providing resources, training and job placement opportunities. It specializes in serving: refugees, persons with limited English proficiency, persons transitioning from welfare, ex-offenders, persons with disabilities, seniors ages 55+. It provides: employability assessment, career counseling, classroom and work site training, job search preparation, job development, job matching, job placement and follow-up

2. WorkSource (WS) – various

WS is the name for the “one-stop” system in Washington State. It is an integrated, high quality delivery system for an array of employment and training services designed to enhance the effectiveness and coordination of employer and job-seeker services. ESD operates the offices below. Employment Services include:

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- Completion of an intake, assessments, development of an employment plan
- Receive one on one assistance to identify short and long term employment/training goals
- Introduction to career exploration tools and resources
- Information on the local labor market to help identify a career pathway
- Support service assistance
- One on one assistance to prepare specialized work search tools, including targeted resumes, master application and 60-second Commercial
- Receive one-on-one employment coaching sessions to maintain employment and progress on their career ladder
- Access to the WorkSource resource room and all available workshop and activities
- Facilitated job development assistance to include Work Experience opportunities
- Access to Job Club activities
- Access to job skill development opportunities through WorkSource
- Referrals to post-employment training opportunities
- Connections to community resources
- Career and wage progression opportunities

WS offers BFET program participants job search preparation and assistance that leads to rapid employment. BFET participants are assigned a personal Career Coach providing them with one on one skills assessment, barrier removal, case management, preparing their application, resume, interviewing skills, job search strategies, and referrals to employers. BFET participants will also receive support services as needed. WorkSource BFET services are provided exclusively to appropriate Basic Food recipients. Locations expected to start in FFY 2017 are:

- a. Okanogan
- b. Skagit
- c. Whatcom

3. **Year Up Puget Sound** – King County

Year Up Puget Sound offers an intensive one-year program that combines a six-month training curriculum that prepares youth for entry level jobs in the technology sector with a six-month corporate internship at one of Puget Sound’s top employers. The program includes: Six months of classroom training where students participate in a Learning Community and learn technical skills that prepare them for jobs in IT including: entry level Help Desk, Tech Support, Virtualization, and Quality Assurance. Year Up partners include many locally and nationally well-known employers.

4. Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council -- Chelan and Douglas Counties

Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council was created in 1965 as part of America's War on Poverty. It is a private not-for-profit corporation serving the residents of Chelan and Douglas Counties that assists individuals and families to move out of poverty into a lifestyle that promotes a safer and healthier living environment, leading to self-sufficiency.

5. HopeLink – King County

Since 1971, HopeLink has served homeless and low-income families, children, seniors and people with disabilities in the north and east King County, WA. With service centers in Redmond, Bellevue, Kirkland, Shoreline and Sno-Valley (Carnation), it is the largest nonprofit organization in the area. HopeLink programs and services focus on five key areas: food, financial assistance, housing & family development, adult education & employment and transportation/mobility. Programs are aimed at helping people achieve stability, and helping them gain the skills and knowledge they need to exit poverty for good.

B. Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs)

ABAWDs⁹ are individuals receiving SNAP (called Basic Food assistance in Washington State) who are between the ages of 18 and 49, without dependents and are determined able to work. These individuals are required to participate in work-like activities each month to maintain their Basic Food eligibility. ABAWDs unable to meet participation for three months in the current 36-month period (Jan. 2015 – Dec. 2017) will not receive more than three months of Basic Food benefits. ABAWD requirements took effect in Snohomish, King, and some areas within Pierce Counties on January 1, 2016.

Approximately \$20 million is available nationwide to states that pledge to provide job training supports to ABAWDs in their state. Washington State requested but did not receive this pledge for FFY 2016 because ABAWD requirements commenced midyear while the funding requires full year implementation. DSHS submitted a request for approximately \$2 million for FFY 2017 to serve this population.

The BFET program is a preferred but optional choice for ABAWDs to meet participation. Other options include working for pay, volunteering, WorkFare and participating in other E&T programs through the state. While BFET is not mandatory, it offers a depth of services and access to enable ABAWD individuals to receive training or remain in training to learn or improve marketable skills for in demand industries and secure long-term success. BFET also offers job search assistance for work ready ABAWD individuals to find and secure employment.

⁹ <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/able-bodied-adults-without-dependents-abawds>

VII. NEXT STEPS

Strategic Planning – Five-Year Plan:

During SFY 2012, DSHS along with its partners and interested stakeholders began work on a BFET strategic plan to draw out a road map to carefully grow and improve the program for the next five years in a time of dwindling resources and growing need. The plan was completed and approved by Department leadership in February 2012. The plan will be revised in FY 2016 by the BFET Strategic Planning Committee. The BFET strategic plan strategy workgroup consists of DSHS staff and representatives from various BFET college and community partners. The goal of the workgroup is to carefully expand the program to serve more eligible individuals needing employment services. The workgroups are developing plans to search for gaps in service based on demographic and geographic areas.

VIII. PROGRAM FUNDING AND FFY2016 AND FFY2017

Funding Category	Approved FFY 2016 Budget	Proposed FFY 2017 Budget
1. 100 Percent Federal E&T Grant:	\$7,222,462	\$2,687,554
2. Share of \$20 Million ABAWD Grant (if applicable)	\$0	\$0
3. Additional E&T Administrative Expenditures	\$30,450,893	\$33,694,046
a. 50% Federal	\$15,288,593	\$16,907,317
b. 50% State	\$15,162,300	\$16,786,729
4. Participant Expenses:		\$4,488,644
a. Transportation/Other	\$3,922,385	\$4,333,644
50% Federal	\$1,976,886	\$2,181,957
50% State	\$1,945,499	\$2,151,687
b. Dependent Care	\$12,300	\$155,000
50% Federal	\$6,150	\$76,625
50% State	\$6,150	\$78,375
5. Total E&T Program Costs (= 1+2+3a+3b+4a+4b)	\$41,608,040	\$40,870,244
6. 100% State Agency Cost for Dependent Care Services	\$0	\$5,000,000
7. Total Planned Federal FY Costs (Must agree with Part H— Operating Budget)	\$ 41,508,033	\$45,870,244

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