



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Seattle Education Access Program

1. **Purpose:**

The funding in this proviso is passed through directly to Northwest Education Access (NWEA) [formerly Seattle Education Access] to provide comprehensive and individualized support to help low-income young people, including highly mobile homeless youth ages 16–29, build their own path to higher education and beyond. NWEA supports homeless and low-income young people who are disconnected from traditional education pathways to overcome life and academic barriers and succeed in higher education.

2. **Description of services provided:**

These funds have expanded services into Pierce and Snohomish Counties, with workstreams falling into three main categories: partnership development in Pierce County, direct service with young people in Pierce County, and capacity building with other service providers in Snohomish County.

Partnership development in Pierce County:

- Participate in Graduate Tacoma’s Community Learning Cohort
- Establish partnerships and new referral channels with Tacoma College Housing Assistance Program, Tacoma Community College, Fresh Start, and Clover Park Technical College
- Enhance capacity at Tacoma Community College for student navigation services

Direct service with students served through these funds includes:

- Providing the personal attention, mentorship, technical assistance, and moral support that low-income young people need to navigate the complex systems of higher education and financial aid
- Connecting low-income young people with information and resources and support them in creating an individualized plan to meet their higher education goals
- Advocating for and with low-income young people and empower them to develop their own voices as they pursue their higher education
- Providing financial resources that help low-income young people access higher education and meet their basic needs while in school

Capacity building with other service providers in Snohomish County:

- Established new relationship with Cocoon House, a community-based organization servicing youth experiencing homelessness
- Conducted needs assessment with Cocoon House to identify priority areas of interest and gaps

- Co-created annual training plan to address identified areas of need
- Developed and facilitated session on critical elements of intake process and student educational goal setting and planning
- Shared tools for Cocoon House to adapt to their context for serving youth with postsecondary intake and planning

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

Student participants must meet the following requirements:

- be between the ages of 16-29 at the start of programming;
- qualify as low-income (as defined by HUD data); and
- express a strong motivation to reconnect with education and earn a postsecondary credential.

Part of these funds support capacity building with other community-based organizations. Eligibility for organizations partnering with NWEA are minimal, yet include; interest in developing or enhancing postsecondary transition support for youth or young adults, willingness to provide feedback on draft tools and trainings so that NWEA can continue to improve development of service and delivery, and have adequate staff capacity committed to investing in organizational learning.

Beneficiaries in 2020-21 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	3
Number of Schools:	4
Number of Students:	20
Other: Capacity Building Recipients:	10

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs):	0.0
Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding:	1.0

FY21 Funding: State Appropriation:	\$250,000
Federal Appropriation:	\$0
Other fund sources:	\$0
TOTAL (FY21)	\$250,000

4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

- No
 Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY21	\$250,000	\$250,000
FY20	\$250,000	\$250,000

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

N/A

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

N/A

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

Outcomes achieved for the recipients of the services provided for through this funding include the following:

Tacoma-Pierce County Year 2

- 20 active students served in their pre-college or postsecondary phases
- Student Postsecondary Institutions
 - Tacoma Community College
 - Clover Park Technical College
 - Pierce College
 - University of Washington - Tacoma
- Referral Partners
 - Tacoma Community College Fresh Start
 - College Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) by Tacoma House Authority
 - Tacoma Community College's Workforce Department
 - Clover Park Technical College Guided Pathways
- Student Achievements
 - 3 Graduates
 - 1 Associate Degree
 - 2 Bachelor Degrees
 - Highlights
 - 3 out of the 20 active students were connected to Centralized Diversion Funds through our Tacoma Education Advocate to access financial support for urgent housing needs
 - One high school student at Clover Park Technical College began the cosmetology program through a NWEA scholarship and

pre-college funds that covered the starting kit required in the first quarter. They will graduate with her diploma and certificate winter quarter.

- One TCC HS+ student delivered her baby and took the quarter off, then transitioned the following quarter to her AA-DTA pathway
- Community Relationships and Networking
 - Tacoma College Success Network - initiative of Graduate Tacoma and Foundation for Tacoma Students
 - NWEA Staff are active participants in TCSN and working groups
 - NWEA Senior Program Manager serves on the TCSN leadership team and supported in the creation of the new Reengaged Learners working group aimed to bring together providers to support opportunity youth and adult learners
 - Community Learning Fund: Postsecondary Access and Completion
 - NWEA participated and completed a 1 year learning cohort program with other providers and organization in Tacoma
 - Charting our Future Conference Presenters
 - NWEA presented at Tacoma's first Charting our Future Conference on data of opportunity youth in Tacoma-Pierce County and best practices to support opportunity youth
 - University of Washington Tacoma's Back on Track Pilot
 - NWEA staff presented our Supportive Approaches capacity building workshop to UWT staff, including several directors from various departments, to support the building of their new pilot program to reengage students who left the university.
 - Centralized Diversion Fund
 - 4 of our staff members who have students in Tacoma-Pierce County completed the CDF training and are able to access these flexible funding dollars to support Pierce County students. Our Education Advocates have been able to utilize these dollars and it has gone a long way in mitigating the barriers our students are facing in regards to housing.

Snohomish County Year 2

- NWEA Staff Capacity Building Workshop Pilot
 - NWEA staff facilitated a workshop series to staff at Cocoon House in Snohomish County to share best practices and various resources and tools to support opportunity youth in their journey to accessing postsecondary pathways
 - NWEA Workshops and Toolkit

- Supportive Approaches
- Foundational workshop for our series. Introduction and reflection on how to build student-led relationships that are supportive and trusting. Discuss and reflect how to use first few meetings, including intake, to build supportive relationships.
 - Tools Shared: NWEA Intake Guide
 - Career and Program Exploration
- Overview of different postsecondary pathways and discovery questions to ask students to support in their exploration. NWEA discusses and shares all types of options for students, including short term programs.
 - Tools Shared: Career and Program Exploration tools and websites, Discovery Question Guide
 - Steps to Enrollment
- Introduction and overview of the steps that students and direct service providers can take together to enter a postsecondary program. Discussion around flexibility as the cornerstone of support for opportunity youth as they transition to postsecondary.
 - Tools Shared: NWEA Pre-College Timeline, NWEA Campus Contact Sheet, NWEA Community Resource Contact Sheet
 - Paying for College
- Overview of the variety of options available for students to pay for postsecondary and tutorial on unique student situations.
 - Tools Shared: NWEA Financial Aid Cheat Sheet, Video tutorials on FAFSA and WASFA, Supporting Undocumented Students Definition Sheet

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

COVID closures of campuses and community sites initially impacted NWEA's ability to forge partnerships and establish robust student referral pipelines, but we are adjusting remotely to these challenges. Our Education Advocate was able to meet with students virtually and support in navigating barriers and supporting their postsecondary planning. There were quite a few students who also had to prioritize their basic needs due to COVID and took breaks from school or had to push their timelines of starting.

For our capacity building toolkit, we were able to present our workshops to Cocoon House, have discussions with their staff, and share our tools with them. Again, due to COVID and the increased demand for additional basic-need support from their staff, we didn't get as much feedback or participation as we had hoped. On the other hand, we learned a lot from this pilot and now have a completed toolkit that we are anticipating sharing with more organizations and partners in the future.

10. **Future opportunities:**

The completed capacity-building toolkit will be extremely useful and impactful in the future. We already have several community partners that are interested in learning from NWEA and accessing shared resources. We are excited for how sharing our toolkit can support more students in Pierce, King, and Snohomish counties through our partners.

In Tacoma-Pierce county, NWEA was chosen as a new WIOA service provider. This will provide additional capacity, financial support for students, and will create new partnerships.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 5092 Sec. 1518 (25) - \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for the Seattle education access program to ensure students on nontraditional educational pathways have the mentorship and technical assistance needed to navigate higher education and financial aid. The office may require the recipient of these funds to report the impacts of the recipient's efforts in alignment with the measures of the Washington school improvement framework.

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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