WorkForce Guide to Funding your Skagit Valley College Education

All the different funding options available can be confusing and you may qualify for more than one.

What are you planning to study?

Professional-Technical Degrees and Certificates

Adult Basic Education & English as a Second Language

Transfer Degrees (& Approved Prof-Tech. Degrees)

I am Low-Income, and/or a recently dislocated worker, dislocated from self-employment, a dislocated homemaker, or a honorably discharged veteran (income requirements will vary between programs)

I have lived in Washington State for more than 12 months.

I am studying a program in Business, Education, Healthcare or Human Services/CDP.

I have been Laid off, received Unemployment Benefits in the last 2 years, become a displaced homemaker or had to give up a small business recently.

I currently receive Basic Food Assistance (food stamps) and not TANF cash (but may receive GAU, GAX, SSI or other non-TANF cash)

I currently receive TANF cash assistance

NO

NO

YES

YES

YES

NO for BOTH

YES

YES

NO for BOTH

Financial Aid

- Pell Grant
- State Need Grant
- Other SVC funds
- Work Study
- Loans

ongoing funding for eligible certificate and degree programs

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Opportunity Grant
- Up to 45 credits of tuition
- Books
- Testing / Fees

Participants may also qualify for BFET, Worker Retraining and Financial Aid.

Worker Retraining
- 1 quarter’s tuition
- Testing / Fees
- Help with UI’s forms and procedures

Participants may also qualify for Opportunity Grant, BFET and Financial Aid.

BFET
- 1 quarter’s tuition
- Books
- Testing / Fees
- Bus Pass / Parking
- Childcare

Participants may also qualify for Opportunity Grant, Worker Retraining and Financial Aid.

Work First
- 1 Quarter’s Tuition
- Books
- Testing / Fees
- Childcare

Participants may also qualify for Opportunity Grant, Worker Retraining and Financial Aid.

programs above are short-term funding options; for programs longer than a quarter you will be required to apply for financial aid
There are several funding options on SVC’s campus. Read more about them below. To discover what you might qualify for see the chart on the reverse of this sheet.

**Workforce Funding Sources:**

**Worker Retraining**  
**Contact:** 360-416-7649  
A “start-up” funding source to help for the first quarter (with additional funds possible), Worker Retraining provides job readiness and training assistance for people who are unemployed, face imminent layoff or otherwise qualify as displaced workers. Students may qualify for assistance with tuition, fees and books, and continue to receive unemployment benefits while attending one of SVC’s many professional-technical programs.

**Opportunity Grant**  
*N Building N-122; to apply: attend an orientation, held the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 11:30am at WorkSource, Room 101*  
**Contact:** 360-416-7948  
The Opportunity Grants program is designed to help low-income adults begin, and to persist in, a long-term career development ladder. The funds can help “bridge” students into college and help fill the gaps that traditional Financial Aid cannot. Students will receive intensive wrap-around services and may qualify for up to 45 credits of tuition, books, supplies and fees applied toward one of the following professional-technical programs: Allied Health, Welding, Automotive, and Early Childhood Education.

In addition to generally low-income adults, Opportunity Grant focuses on three target populations: Pre-GED learners; ESL students (level 4+); and former or current foster youth.

**BFET (Basic Food Education and Training)**  
*N Building N-122; to apply: attend an orientation, held the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 11:30am at WorkSource, Room 101*  
**Contact:** 360-416-7948  
The BFET programs provides “start-up” funds to help with the cost of tuition, books, fees, bus/parking passes and referral for Working Connections Childcare for students who receive Basic Food Assistance and are not receiving Workfirst/TANF cash. BFET generally pays for the first quarter of a professional-technical program while helping students link-in to other funding sources and can provide ongoing assistance to Adult Basic Education (GED or High School Completion) and English as a Second Language (ESL) student.

**Women’s Programs:**

**WorkFirst**  
*N Building N-122; **Contact:** 360-416-7971*  
WorkFirst tuition assistance is “start-up” funding that helps support parents who have recently received TANF (within the last 2 years), are currently receiving TANF. Qualified students may be provided with the cost of the 1st quarter’s tuition, fees and required textbooks for “wage progression” classes at Skagit. It is available to students who wish to upgrade their skills to enhance their employability, to gain higher wages and/or to develop a career path. Referral to Working Connection Childcare may also be available.

**Financial Aid:**  
**Contact:** (360)416-7666  
To qualify for financial aid you must complete the FAFSA: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and turn in a student data sheet (available in the Financial Aid office and on the SVC Website)  
The Financial Aid office provides assistance with the disbursement of many tuition assistance programs such as: Pell and State Need Grants, SVC Scholarships and Tuition Waivers, and Federal and State Work Study awards. Filling out the FAFSA allows students to apply for all of these forms of assistance which do not have to be paid back and additionally to qualify for Loans which will need to be paid back at the end of a student’s training.

**Other Outside Funders:**  
There are other forms of assistance that may be available to help with your education. Examples include:  
- Worksource / WIA Funders: [http://www.wa.gov/esd/training.htm#Dislocated_Worker](http://www.wa.gov/esd/training.htm#Dislocated_Worker)  
- DVR (Department of Vocational Rehabilitation): [http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/)  
- Veteran’s Administration: [http://www.dva.wa.gov/education.html](http://www.dva.wa.gov/education.html)  