



**Snohomish County
Human Services**

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2024 - 2025

**PUGET SOUND TAXPAYER ACCOUNTABILITY ACCOUNT
ANNUAL REPORT**

Institute of Higher Education	Everett Community College
Interlocal Agreement Number	EL-21-80-07-052
Allocation 2024-2025	\$285,427.78
Reallocated Unspent Funds from 2023-2024	25,401.38
Total 2024-2025 Allocation	310,829.16
Admin Designation (maximum 10%)	20,851.94
Direct Service Designation (maximum 90% after admin)	262,002.60
Early Learning Designation (minimum 10% after admin)	27,974.62
Spent through August 2025	\$197,679.56

FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Proposed Use of Funds (Brief Summary)

Everett Community College (EvCC) Early Learning Center (ELC)

The ELC is a Birth-Five ECEAP provider and a NAEYC accredited program designed to support a child's development and learning, family support and parent involvement and children's health and nutrition. Funds will be used to support the ELC Administrative Assistant position and to hire a consultant to assess the business model of the Early Learning Center to ensure longevity of the program to be able to offer ongoing holistic support to children and student families.

Student Success Navigator

Funds will be used to support the position of student success navigator which is part of the Equity and Social Justice department. The student success navigator handles providing a variety of support services to aid underrepresented student populations including student parents with retention and completion.

Endowment

Funds will also be used to continue contributing to an endowment fund (twenty-five percent of allocated funds) focused on improving retention and completion efforts among non-traditional students, which includes student parents.

Identify any modifications that occurred during implementation.



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As noted above, EvCC requested approval to use PSTAA funds to hire a consultant to help us develop a long-term fiscal sustainability plan for the Early Learning Center. Having received county approval for that expenditure, the college developed a draft scope of work and began searching for a suitable consultant. Unfortunately, the college was not able to find anyone to take on the work. Potential consultants who either turned down or did not respond to college outreach included the former chair of EvCC's Early Childhood Education program, members of EvCC's Early Childhood Education Advisory Board, Civitas Strategies, and Starbright Early Learning. Therefore, the funding for a consultant was not used.

In addition, EvCC's original community childcare partner, ChildStrive, ended its relationship with Connect Casino Road and was no longer able to provide the services agreed to in EvCC's original budget and expenditures plan. EvCC submitted a budget amendment to Snohomish County asking those funds to be reallocated to Connect Casino Road Parents Co-Op who had taken over the programming described in the budget and spending plan narrative.

Following the most recent project update and despite concerted efforts to identify sustainable solutions, the College has made the difficult decision to discontinue operations of the Early Learning Center effective July 1, 2025. This decision was made after a prolonged history of financial deficits that made continued operation no longer feasible. As of this date, on-campus childcare services are no longer available. Families with children enrolled at the Early Learning Center at the time of its closure were provided with guidance and resources to assist in locating alternative childcare options within the community.

Beginning in the upcoming award year, this project will transition to administrative oversight within Everett Community College's Division of Strategic Enrollment Management and Student Success, under the leadership of Vice President Dyer. This shift is intended to strengthen alignment with the College's broader student success and community engagement initiatives. Despite this administrative transition, Vice President Dyer and his team remain deeply committed to supporting the Connect Casino Road Parents Co-Op. Families currently involved with the Co-Op will continue to benefit from the resources, programs, and services provided through this project, ensuring ongoing support and continuity of care.

Share your progress including outcomes achievements to date.

The Early Learning Center is a Birth-five ECEAP provider. The outcomes and student achievement goals have been met as decided by the performance standards. With the addition of PSTAA funds, the ELC has been able to continue to provide quality services to student and community families by supporting administrative salaries. Although the



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PSTAA funds were helping to move the ELC works towards fiscal sustainability, the center faced ongoing fiscal challenges as other grant sources were ending.

The student success navigator connected with student parents, particularly in TRiO and offered both direct academic and life skills resources needed to achieve their education goals while also meeting their families' needs. The student success navigator position outcomes were documented in the monitoring and reports on STARFISH of the academic progress of student parents and those that have used the support services to make progress toward their academic goals.

The Student Success Navigator continues to play an integral role in supporting student parents by offering individualized academic guidance and essential life-skills resources. Through proactive outreach and sustained engagement, the Navigator helps student parents navigate the unique challenges of balancing coursework, family responsibilities, and personal well-being. This ongoing effort not only connects students with the resources they need to thrive but also strengthens their ability to persist and succeed academically. Progress and outcomes related to this work are systematically tracked through STARFISH, where data and reports document student milestones, monitor academic performance, and highlight the positive impact of the support services on student parents and others who access them.

The college recently welcomed a new Director of Institutional Research (IR), who is leading efforts to strengthen this effort's capacity for data collection and progress monitoring. Under their direction, the IR office is developing new tools and resources designed to enhance reporting of student progress indicators. These initiatives aim to improve access to timely, actionable data that will support strategies to promote student success.

What challenges have you encountered?

As reported in earlier PSTAA funding updates, EvCC's Early Learning Center continued to struggle with enrollment, prompt staff hiring, and budget challenges. Despite the supplementary operating funds provided by PSTAA, EvCC's Early Learning Center continued to operate under considerable financial risk in fiscal year 2025; increased operating costs, coupled with reduction or elimination of emergency stabilization funding, placed the College in the position of either increasing the cost to parents for enrolling their children, covering the difference with funds from other grant sources, or subsidizing the deficit from its general operating fund. While the College has had access to external grant funding to avoid operating the ELC at a deficit over the past two years, these grants are ending in the near term. In April 25, the college's financial analysis projected an operational deficit for the ELC of at least \$300,000.00 per year beginning next fiscal year (2025-2026); the demise of funding for Early ECEAP will increase that projected deficit, potentially doubling it.



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As a result of these concerns, EvCC's Early Learning Center will close on June 30, 2025. EvCC will lease the facility to an external provider who can offer sustainable early learning and childcare services that meet the needs of community and EvCC students. The College does not intend to pay a third party to operate the ELC on behalf of the College but will enter into a client service agreement with a third party for these early childhood education and/or childcare services.

It is also necessary to note that the PSTAA funding had minimal impact on EvCC student success outcomes overall. As of May 25, 2025, there were approximately seventy-two children enrolled at the ELC; of these approximately eighteen children (twenty-five percent) had primary caregivers who were enrolled in EvCC programs. This is a function of the small number of EvCC student parents who can take advantage of ELC services. The majority of grant funded early learning programming, on which the ELC relies, has rigid rules which are not conducive to student parents who require childcare that allows for more flexibility in terms of time, cost, and model of care. Given a student population of over 13,000, it is difficult to justify distributing the bulk of EvCC's PSTAA higher education funds to the potential benefit of only eighteen students.

Since our last update, the ELC has officially closed and is no longer in operation. Efforts were made to support affected staff, and several personnel have successfully been transitioned into alternate roles within the college, allowing them to continue contributing to the institution's mission while maintaining employment. The college remains committed to providing resources and support to those impacted by this closure.

FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR EARLY LEARNING PROVIDERS

Early Learning Provider: Connect Casino Road (CCR) Parent Co-Op Program

Proposed Use of Funds (Brief Summary)

EvCC will continue contracting with the Connect Casino Road (CCR) parent co-op program found at The Villages on Casino Rd as part of a two-generational approach aimed at improving the education and economic outcomes among the low-income EvCC students who take adult education classes. This partnership reflects the EvCC's interest in supporting parents as their child's first and most important teacher while also building a strong community as they connect with other student parents. PSTAA funds will be used to support the parent co-op program which includes Adult CPR/First Aid, Interpreter services, cost of background checks, parent co-op stipends, space rent, and other program supplies.

**Note: Leadership for the CCR Parent Co-Op Program transitioned mid-year from ChildStrive to Connect Casino Road.*



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Share their progress including outcomes achievement to date.

PSTAA funds provided support for Kid's Club, part of Connect Casino Road's two-generation Parent Co-Op program. Kids' Club is a shared cooperative childcare that allows families with young children and limited childcare options to take part in onsite English classes. PSTAA funds covered the rent for the Kids Club space, provided multilingual CPR classes to parent caregivers and healthy snacks for children.

Ten children and four parents attended the most recent cohort.

Feedback from parents is overwhelmingly positive. One hundred percent of parents, who responded to a survey, said this initiative made them feel more connected to the community and that their need for children's supervision so that they could take class was met.

In addition to solving the critical need for childcare during class, several participants have reported also gaining valuable experience, with at least one student hoping to put this experience on their resume as they pursue a career in childcare.

Share successes and challenges designating funding to community-based early learning providers.

Kids Club is a small initiative that, with minimal funding, can generate tremendous benefits to those who take part, including English language acquisition and support for extended social connection and multicultural learning across two generations. One parent responded that thanks to Kids' Club, her education went beyond the classroom:

{Participant quote}

"In addition to studying English, I learned a lot from the children and their different cultures."

The program is small, and participation fluctuates depending on the needs of community members. Kid's Club is the kind of under-the-radar, grassroots, community-led childcare model that may not be able to generate the volume of outcomes that would qualify them for much needed ongoing support from larger grant organizations. Further, members of the Connect Casino Road community are increasingly vulnerable to policy and fiscal decisions made at the state level.

In recognition of both the successes and challenges of Kids Club and Connect Casino Road Parent Co-Op, EvCC hopes to continue using a small amount of PSTAA funding to support their critical efforts in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.