



**PUGET SOUND TAXPAYERS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT ACCOUNT
2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

Institution of Higher Education	Washington State University Everett
Total 2022-2023 Allocation (Includes reallocated unspent funds from 2021-22)	\$ 194,415.18
Admin Designation	\$ 0
Direct Service Designation	\$ 174,973.66
Early Learning Designation	\$ 19,441.52
Spent through August 2023	\$ 173,843.39

FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES

Proposed Use (Brief Summary)

Washington State University Everett will eliminate application barriers for local students through a series of new scholarships for new and enrolled students residing within the RTA. The barrier free application program will save students about **\$39,200**, eliminating a major barrier and providing a platform from which to launch their futures in Snohomish County. With no end in sight to the continual increase in the cost of an education, low- and middle-income students are facing more difficult choices than ever. We have a unique opportunity to support Snohomish County students within the Sound Transit Regional Taxing Authority, particularly for families with young children. Based on financial need and academic achievement, WSU Everett will offer current-use scholarships during the 2022-23 academic year. A total of **\$100,000** will be disbursed as scholarships for students in financial need, those who have demonstrated academic achievement at their community college and shown community involvement through work and volunteerism. Participants in our new barrier-free access to higher education program will be required to complete specific learning during their studies, including mandatory advising and new University 101 seminars that will provide students with the tools they need to succeed, stay in school, and complete a degree.

Identify any modifications that occurred during implementation.

No modifications occurred.

Share your progress including outcomes achievement to date.

WSU Everett is happy to share that on average over 30 eligible students were awarded over \$5,000 each from this fund. Additional funding went out to housing sensitive students and students expressing extreme financial need. This places the estimated awards at \$150,000, exceeding expectations.

What challenges have you encountered?

WSU Everett has a large population of students within Snohomish County who are not necessarily within the RTA zones of this fund, and it has been frustrating to not utilize these funds for those individuals. Fortunately, we have other fund avenues to work with, but being able to utilize PSTAA for all of Snohomish County would be a major benefit that is more sustainable, and this would increase post-secondary attendance rates.



FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR EARLY LEARNING PROVIDERS

Early Learning Provider: ChildStrive

Proposed Use (Brief Summary)

The funds will be used to support the ChildStrive's operation of a co-op childcare program for children ages 12 months to five years, family engagement through monthly parent meetings, classroom coaching for parents, and provide early childhood development screening tools in a parents' primary language.

Share their progress including outcomes achievement to date.

PSTAA funding supported the provision of high quality early learning education through a dual language, child-centered approach in a coop child care environment. Using a two-generation model, Childstrive offered their early learning experience in English and Spanish for children ages one to five whose parents are attending classes. Staff have developed internal systems and strategies to distribute the early learning funds

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

WSU Everett is committed to supporting early learning as it builds the critical foundation for college success. Our challenges have been in distributing the funds to our community-based early learning partner(s). As a university and a satellite campus, the majority of administration tasks happens within the central offices. No position within WSU Everett had previously been identified as lead staff for PSTAA management and the daily PSTAA requirements had not been clearly defined or assigned. In addition, we did not have financial systems in place for working with community partners. This impacted the 2021-2022 and the 2022-2023 PSTAA ILA years and funding spent with our early learning community partner.

We believe we have navigated through challenges and have systems in place to successfully implement and fully utilize, as intended, PSTAA funding effective September 1, 2023, for the upcoming year. Recently, WSU Everett had a changeover in leadership for the PSTAA ILA and communication with ChildStrive was not included in that change over. Since then, WSU Everett has re-established communication and has developed a method for ChildStrive to utilize their allocated amount through what will be a new subgrant contract. WSU Everett has PSTAA activities and staff clearly identified as part of their duties and is excited to continue working with ChildStrive. WSU will ensure that information, documentation, and communication is handled with diligence.