



PUGET SOUND TAXPAYER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT ACCOUNT

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Institution of Higher Education/School District	WA State Community College Dist. #23 DBA Edmonds College
Total 2021-2022 Allocation	\$88,000.00
Direct Service	\$71,280.00
Early Learning designation	\$7,920.00
Admin	\$8,800.00
Total 2021-2022 Expenditure	\$67,373

FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR IHE/SCHOOL DISTRICT SERVICES

Proposed Use (Brief Summary)

Provide resources and services aimed at supporting students' basic needs not already being met through Food Pantry. Funds will be used to purchase new products not currently offered but which are in high demand, such as winter coats/clothing and blankets, and basic school supplies. We propose to enhance the resources in the Food Pantry by providing vouchers for students with high financial need who reside within the boundaries of RTA. These vouchers will be used to purchase fresh foods, or to help with expenses such as childcare, rent, utilities, gas, etc. Funds will also be used to purchase equipment (such as food scales) to enhance efficiency of food distribution. Providing these enhanced resources will support students to stay in school and complete their degree. In addition, funds will be used to hire one AmeriCorps volunteer to assist in Food Pantry operations and offer education programming and support expanded hours to allow more students access.

• Identify any modifications that occurred during implementation.

Currently, we have a request pending to modify the budget. These modifications include:

- An adjustment to the professional services line item - AmeriCorps Placement fee of \$10,500 - Although we are almost done with our AmeriCorps member application and feel confident of an award (application process closes in late June), the invoicing of the placement fee will most likely not be received until September 1st. This is too late to be included in the current grant period.
- An adjustment to the dues and subscription line item - Software of \$1500 - We will be unable to spend these allocated funds by September 1st.

In sum we reallocated \$12,000 dollars. This exceeded the 10% or \$8,800 threshold. Our request was to reallocate the \$12,000 into flex funds due to a high demand for these resources.

• Share your progress including outcomes achieved during.

Since receiving the PSTAA grant, we have achieved the following outcomes:

- We have distributed \$18,600 in Flex Funds to students residing within the boundaries of the RTA. Flex Funds have been used to help students with rent assistance, childcare expenses, utilities, food, internet, and auto expenses.
- We have improved pantry efficiency by purchasing shelving, dunnage racks, food-scales, reusable bags, labeling systems, and have installed a safe to store food vouchers.



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- We have created print materials to re-brand and market our food pantry, which was relocated in the new Triton Student Resource Hub, which provides a larger space and more wrap-around services to students with emergent needs.
- We have increased the visibility of the space by installing new banners and signage.
- Funding for a state motor pool van has provided the means to pick up donations which has increased our food distribution and the variety of food available for our students.
- An amendment to ILA was completed and funds shifted from professional services and subscriptions to flex funds.

During the grant period, we provided food and hygiene supplies to the following number of students:

Month	Total Visits	Unique Visitors
September	319	188
October	477	259
November	479	246
December	168	126
January	305	161
February	405	193
March	568	257
April	695	318
May	602	252
June	412	210
July	271	140
August	287	137
Grand Total	4988	875

- **What challenges did you encounter?** Most of the challenges our program has encountered have been referenced above.

Challenges:

- Our AmeriCorps program was anticipated to occur during this current grant period. No placements were available during this time. For this program year, invoicing for the placement fee will not take place until September which is beyond this current grant cycle. We continue to pursue placing an AmeriCorps member into the Food Pantry program during next year's grant cycle. We have requested the funds allocated toward this line item to be reallocated to flex funds.
- Recruitment of staff was challenging and took longer than anticipated. This has caused a delay in implementing a food pantry software project. We expect to be fully staffed shortly and hope to implement the software during next year's grant cycle. We have requested the funds allocated toward this line item to be reallocated to flex funds.



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FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR EARLY LEARNING PROVIDERS

Early Learning Provider	Snohomish County Cooperative Preschools
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Proposed Use (Brief Summary). Funds will be used to deepen and extend the work of building anti-bias early childhood classrooms in low-cost Parent Participation Preschools throughout Snohomish County to purchase and update classroom materials that reflect a deeper sense of equity and inclusion, than those that reflect the dominant culture. Materials will include literature for preschool teachers and leaders to become culturally responsive and update libraries with diverse and developmentally appropriate reading materials for children and families that mirror the diverse population of our county.

- **Share their progress including outcomes achieved during 2021-2022.**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion materials for early learning settings were purchased and distributed throughout 12 cooperative preschool classrooms throughout Snohomish County. These materials included items such as Skin-tone construction paper, Skin-tone crayons, Skin-tone markers, multiethnic baby dolls and block people, a variety of children's books addressing diverse families and professional development books for classroom teachers. This infusion of materials has immediately impacted the early learning environment, and children have had direct access to classroom materials that better reflect their own experience.



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

This was a very successful grant that had an immediate positive impact into the classrooms, and for the children and families that work in them. Teachers have reported that the children have enjoyed using the materials and that the depth of diverse resources was immediately felt in the classroom.

Children had immediate access to the materials to enhance their learning environment and engage with diverse materials in a developmentally appropriate manner.

Some of the feedback we received from parents and teachers were:

- “Wow, this is amazing. Thank you. All the items on the list I see would be very beneficial for our classroom.” WECP
- “Thank you so much! I am very excited about these items. I truly appreciate the time and energy that everyone put into this grant and thank you for sharing with us.” MCCP
- This is fantastic, thank you so much for facilitating this for the FLED co-ops! We'll look forward to using these things in the classroom. - PLCP
- Thank you so much. We are very excited to get these items. I am mostly excited about the block people, the babies, and the puzzles. And the books as these are all ones that we don't have. - LSCP

Challenges:

One of the identified challenges of the infusion of materials, is ensuring that the early learning teachers are regularly offering and integrating the materials into the classroom in a meaningful, non-‘tourist’ manner.