

What is the Opportunity Grant proposal?

- A charge to the two-year colleges to implement pilot programs that get low-income adults on the higher education path.
- The creation of certificate programs, co-developed by industry and the two-year colleges, to train and place students in high demand jobs.
- Financial assistance that addresses the barriers to higher education experienced by low-income adults.
- A comprehensive study of the workforce education delivery network to find better ways to serve students.

Who would benefit from the Opportunity Grant program?

- Washington businesses that need skilled workers to remain competitive in a global economy.
- Low-income adults who need access to high-demand training in order to attain living-wage jobs to support their families.
- Non-traditional students who aren't eligible for state and federal financial aid programs due to narrow or rigid eligibility requirements.

Why the community and technical colleges?

- Research conducted by the SBCTC shows that one year of college-level courses, plus a credential such as nursing, welding or drafting represents an economic “tipping point” – the difference between struggling in a low-wage job and having a career that leads to a better life. These are the courses two-year colleges provide.
- The Opportunity Grant program builds on the expertise of the community and technical college system of connecting training dollars with targeted programs.
- Washington businesses have the greatest need for workers with the education that two-year colleges provide.

